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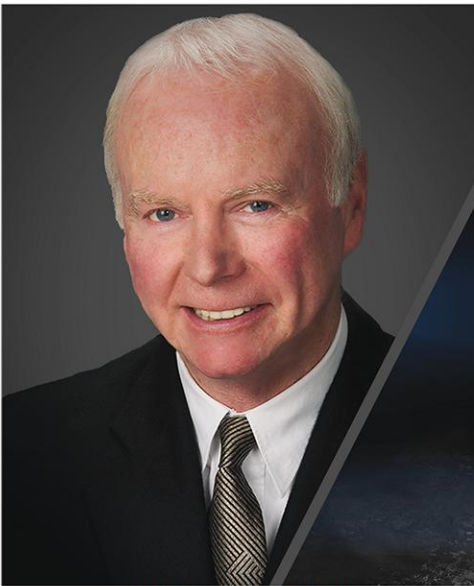


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**ON THE COVER:  
PHOTO BY JAY ADEFF**

Champions were crowned at the 2020 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina, in January. Earning the coveted honor were (clockwise) Alysa Liu (ladies), Madison Chock and Evan Bates (ice dance), Chris Knierim and Alexa Knierim (pairs), and Nathan Chen (men). The pairs and ice dance teams earned their second U.S. titles in Greensboro (2015). They all will have their names etched into the coveted U.S. Figure Skating Championships Trophy.



## GREAT SKATING, ENTHUSIASTIC FANS CREATE MAGIC IN GREENSBORO

Hill Carrow stood rinkside following a blockbuster men's free skate on the final day of the 2020 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina.

His beaming smile told the story.

For the third time in the past decade, this city and the entire Piedmont Triad region had worked with U.S. Figure Skating to deliver an electrifying and memorable competition.

Crowds filled the Greensboro Coliseum Complex for the championship weekend, many of them back after their experience in 2011 and 2015; some walked through the turnstiles as new fans of the sport. This year's event marked the first time in several years that the lower divisions — juvenile, intermediate and novice — didn't compete at the U.S. Championships. Instead, they watched the juniors and seniors compete before heading to Indian Trail, North Carolina, for an intensive High Performance Development Team Camp. (See coverage of that event starting on page 44.)

"We are thrilled always to have figure skating here," Carrow, chair of the local organizing committee, said. "It's a little bit unique in this environment, but with our third time we've built an audience. You could tell the crowd understood figure skating. They were appreciative at the right moments; they were concerned at others. I think they supported the athletes well. All of the athletes I talked to said they super appreciate that."

The athletes routinely shared their gratitude for the fans in their post-competition interviews, on the concourse during autograph sessions and even on the ice, with heart-shaped thank-yous like the one made by U.S. silver medalist Mariah Bell following her emotional free skate.

Greensboro, a hotbed for major sporting events such as NASCAR races, PGA tournaments and AAC basketball, knows how to put on a show, and Carrow hopes U.S. Figure Skating will look at Greensboro again in a few years.

"People around here don't know my name, but if I walk around — even the parking lot attendants will ask, 'Hey, figure skating guy, when is the figure skating coming back?' Those are fans at the grassroots level, who aren't super knowledgeable about figure skating but they realize it is a great event. We would like for the U.S. Championships to come back; we could do another good job. Obviously, it takes a lot of hard work, great volunteers and an excellent facility, and I think we can offer all those types of great things to the athletes,

and they appreciate that."

Paul Wylie, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist, served as the event's honorary chairman for the third time. A former long-time coach in the Charlotte, North Carolina, area, Wylie has witnessed the impact that the U.S. Championships has had on the area's skating community.

"I think there's a confidence for having it now for the third time," Wylie said. "I think there's a natural hospitality that comes along with this city. They just love it. They love the skating, they love the skaters, they know what to expect. The audiences have been completely, wonderfully warm and I'm proud of how they've done."

"They have a respect for how hard it [figure skating] is, so when somebody performs something that they like, they show it and I think that's nice."

Wylie, who took part in the celebration-themed opening ceremony, said it's also obvious to him how much having the U.S. Championships have affected young skaters' development in the area.

"I was impressed to see in the opening ceremony the growth of skating, not just the numbers but the ability and quality of our skaters when you compare it to the first opening ceremony," Wylie said. "You can see what a difference the three championships in 10 years have made here in terms of our level of professionalism in the sport."

U.S. Figure Skating Chief Referee Kathleen Krieger gave the event high marks all the way around.

"It just felt like a true championships," Krieger said. ... "Those who won had to go out and earn it; no one won because others skated poorly, and that always makes the event more fun and exciting."

"I loved the layout. You've got a huge hotel that's less than 10 minutes away from the arena. You have an airport 15 minutes away. There are two rinks under one roof. You have everyone at one hotel. It was just super convenient. It couldn't have been any easier from my perspective with that kind of layout. And the volunteers — that's one thing you notice there. Not only were there lots of them, they were helpful and so nice."

U.S. Figure Skating expects the same kind of hospitality when it returns next year to San Jose, California. Like Greensboro, San Jose will be hosting the U.S. Championships for the third time in the past decade (2012, 2018).

Making it even more special, the event will serve as a kickoff to U.S. Figure Skating's 100-year anniversary celebration.

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## SCOTT HAMILTON WRITES BOOK TO EDUCATE CHILDREN ABOUT CANCER

Olympic gold medalist Scott Hamilton's book, *Fritzy Finds a Hat*, was released on Feb. 4 in honor of World Cancer Day. The book, intended to help parents talk with their children about cancer, tells the story of a boy searching for a hat to give to his mother, who is undergoing cancer treatments.

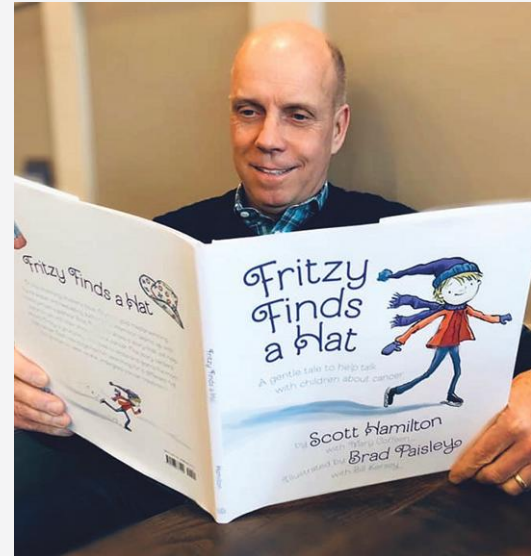
"I am thrilled to release *Fritzy Finds a Hat* to help families across the country broach a difficult conversation about an illness that affects us all," Hamilton said. The skater himself survived testicular cancer in the late 1990s, and his mother suffered from breast cancer. "I know what it means to be in a family facing cancer both as a child and as a parent.

"I hope this book provides support for parents navigating, arguably, the most difficult conversation they could ever have with their young children."

Hamilton collaborated with friend and three-time Grammy award winner Brad Paisley, who created all the hat illustrations in the book.

*Fritzy Finds a Hat* was also a joint publishing partnership between the Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation and Moffitt Cancer Center, a comprehensive cancer center in Tampa, Florida, where Hamilton serves on the board of advisors. Proceeds from the book will support cancer research through both organizations, as well as Moffitt's Families First Program, which helps families adjust to the changes when a parent has cancer.

*Fritzy Finds a Hat* is now available for purchase online at Amazon and online and in stores at Barnes & Noble and Target nationwide.



## BRIAN BOITANO GOES UNDERCOVER AT U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Disguised under a novelty hat and donning a media credential for Pete Pepper from the *Pride of the Piedmont*, Olympic champion Brian Boitano approached fans, skaters and staff at the 2020 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships to interview them about skating.

To get the look, Boitano received help from NBC makeup artists, who gave him new facial hair, a wig and glasses. He also changed his voice and accent. A U.S. Figure Skating videographer discreetly followed him around to document everything. The video was later posted on U.S. Figure Skating's social media.

Boitano fooled almost everyone, including well-known Olympic sportswriter Phil Hersh, who called Boitano's performance at the 1988 Olympic Winter Games a "program of the ages."

"I remember him being very handsome," Pete Pepper replied.

Boitano also ran into sportscaster Terry Gannon, who is most known in figure skating for his commentary on NBC Sports. Gannon immediately recognized the skater under his disguise.

"I'm getting an Academy Award," Pete Pepper joked in the video.



Disguised as Pete Pepper from *Pride of the Piedmont*, Brian Boitano poses with Terry Gannon.



## NATHAN CHEN WINS TEAM USA'S BEST OF DECEMBER AWARD

The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee announced in January the Best of December honors for Team USA presented by Dow. Nathan Chen won the Best of December award upon capturing his third consecutive Grand Prix Final title in Torino, Italy, in early December. Chen has won the Team USA Awards 12 times, including Best of the Year for 2019.



The 2019 World champion also set two new world records at the 2019 Grand Prix Final: a free skate score of 224.92 and a total score of 335.30. This was Chen's ninth consecutive gold medal, dating back to the 2018 World Championships.

The Team USA Awards recognize Team USA athletes' achievements each month, every year and every Olympic Games. An internal committee selects five nominees for male and female categories and three for the team category to advance to the voting round. National governing body representatives and select media members account for 50 percent of the result, and the other half is determined by online fan voting.

## HQ PROFILE: JORDAN HOYT

I am the marketing manager at U.S. Figure Skating. I have the pleasure of assisting with the overall marketing strategy of the organization and bringing awareness to the sport. I am spearheading the Get Up campaign and playing a part in event marketing, digital advertising, ticketing, media buying, memberships and NBC Sports Gold. My goal is to help promote figure skating in the most positive light and enhance the fan experience at events, helping people leave with memorable and lasting impressions. I have been a longtime fan of the beautiful sport of figure skating and am honored to now be able to contribute on a larger scale.



**What is your favorite part of the job?** Seeing how many dedicated and loyal members and fans there are in this sport. I also find it rewarding to see these talented skaters advance on their journey to achieving their dreams. It's key that we continue to support them and their coaches by providing the necessary tools so they're able to reach their full potential.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** I am a dog lover, so I spend most of my spare time with my golden retriever, Payton, and my fiancé, Tyler. I thoroughly enjoy curling up with a good book whether it's Malcolm Gladwell, a Reese Witherspoon recommendation or a crime thriller. Traveling to new places excites me, and I enjoy catching up with friends and running.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?** I was the Pennsylvania 200-meter state champion in 2010 and was a sprinter at the University of Pittsburgh. I have also been a part of three different Olympic Games — London, Rio and PyeongChang — on the production and communications side.

**What would be your ideal vacation?** Somewhere warm, with great culture, music and food. Lake Como, Italy, has been my favorite vacation place, and Greece is the next dream destination on my list.

**Tell us a little about your family.** My family is everything and we are each other's best friends. We moved from Kansas to Virginia to Pennsylvania, which is where my dad still resides. My mom was an incredible human being and one of my biggest inspirations, as is my dad. My sister is a speech pathologist in New York, and my brother manages product distribution operations. We have always been a sports-oriented family and were always told that life is too short to not aim high and go for your dreams. Growing up, you would catch us on the soccer field, basketball court, baseball field, etc., channeling our competitive spirits. When we get together, there's a ton of laughing, reminiscing and enjoying the outdoors.

PHOTO BY LORRIE PARKER



▲ Seven Team USA athletes traveled to Lausanne, Switzerland, in early January to compete in the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games. Katarina Wolfkostin and Jeffrey Chen earned Team USA's first medal at the Games, bringing home the bronze medal in the ice dance event. Cate Fleming and Jedidiah Isbell, and Kate Wang took the silver medal in the team event.

▽ U.S. Figure Skating and Olympic City USA partnered to host "Get Up and Skate On," a festival celebration on National Get Up Day on Feb. 1. The event, held at the ice rink at Acacia Park in downtown Colorado Springs, Colorado, featured free ice skating and optional lessons, giveaways, a photo booth and Get Up champion medals to those who shared their Get Up story. A total of 225 people attended. U.S. Figure Skating also invited staff and athletes from other Olympic national governing bodies and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee for a free skating lesson (see photo) conducted by Team USA athletes Danny Neudecker and Andrew Torgashev and U.S. Figure Skating staff.

PHOTO BY JOE HOLLMANN | OLYMPIC CITY USA







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# FASHIONING A FAMILY-ORIENTED LIFE

Olympic pairs skater thriving in busy, loving household

BY LOIS ELFMAN

Life for two-time U.S. pairs medalist and 2006 Olympian Marcy Hinzmann Simpson is definitely hectic as she and husband Todd Simpson, a former NHL player, enjoy the vibrant and loving energy that four children bring to their home in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada. The family makes time for dinner together almost every night.

There is always a lot to talk about, as the children range in age from 3 to 18 (the older two are Todd's children from a previous marriage who spend every other week with them). The oldest, Alexandra, is 18 and attends a hockey academy school. Her intense schedule reminds Simpson of her days as a teenage figure skater. Parker is 16, in grade 11 and learning to drive. Maverick is 5 and in kindergarten, and Westlyn, 3, attends preschool.

"At dinnertime we connect and talk about our day," Simpson said. "It's so fast they grow up. My son is now 5. That has gone in the blink of an eye. The days are long, but the years are so quick.

"Maverick started what here in Canada is called initiation; it's basically their first year of hockey. They play little games. In Canada, hockey is in the culture. I'm amazed how good these kids are. I wasn't even skating until I was 8, so to see these 5- and 6-year-olds whip around the ice, know the game and score goals is incredible."

Simpson occasionally works with Maverick to show him edgework and give him power skating tips. Westlyn is in learn to skate classes. That is pretty much Simpson's only time at the rink these days, other than as a spectator or on outings at seasonal rinks.

"We have a really beautiful outdoor rink downtown this time of year," she said. "I like going out with my kids. Also, we really like to ski, and the mountain that we go to has a beautiful outdoor rink."

She's replaced the physical exercise of skating with spinning class and a 28-minute home workout she found online.

Moving from her hometown of Columbus, Ohio, a city with a population of almost 900,000, to Kelowna, with a population of about 194,000 in the overall metropolitan area, was a bit of an adjustment, but the lifestyle is phenomenal.

"It's beautiful here and there are so many things you can do outdoors," she said. "The hiking trails. Where we live there's a lake that is gorgeous. It's a dry climate here, so our summers are hot, but not humid.

The Simpson family (l-r) Alexandra, Westlyn, Todd, Maverick, Marcy and Parker







The U.S. pairs team of Marcy Hinzmann and Aaron Parchem perform their free skate at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games at the Palavela in Torino, Italy.

Our winters are pretty magical with all these mountains around. There are three ski resorts within a couple of hours. There's no shortage of activity, and that's something I came to love when I moved here."

Before marrying Todd in 2013, Simpson had been coaching in Columbus. She toys with the idea of returning to it when Maverick and Westlyn get a bit older.

"I do miss working with kids and being their mentor and passing on all the skating knowledge," she said. "When you're a skater and athlete, it shapes you as a person so much more than just what happens on the ice. It sets you up for discipline and goal-setting. It's important for kids these days to have that drive and direction, because you can apply it to anything in life."

She keeps up with competitive skating and admitted to being a bit mind-boggled by the technical level of ladies skaters, while also missing the Michelle Kwan days where style and presentation helped her dominate. Ice dance fascinates her, and she appreciates the creativity in lifts, edgework and spins.

The complexity in pair lifts impresses her. Also, the height in twists creates total wow moments. Watching the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, Simpson felt a connection with Aliona Savchenko and Meagan Duhamel, skaters against whom she competed, and laughed at the memory that at 23 she was seen as a "mature" competitor in Torino.

A petite 5-feet-1, Simpson found her way into pairs skating at age 18. After brief partnerships with Ronnie Biancosino and Steve Hartsell, she teamed with Aaron Parchem in 2003. That proved to be a great

match, even as they endured her torn ACL en route to a spot on the 2006 Olympic Team.

She praised her coaches at the Detroit Skating Club, especially Johnny Johns, who was crucial in helping her get over self-doubts. Simpson found a genuine love of pairs skating, saying the many aspects of pairs always kept her motivated.

"It was lifts, throws, twists, death spirals, pairs spins, side-by-side spins, lower lifts — we called them dance lifts — there was always something new to work on in practice," she said. "Plus, I was always a skater who enjoyed the artistic side, and with pairs, there is so much more you can do when skating with someone. I found it to be super expressive."

She described Parchem as the ideal match — physically and in style and temperament. His consistency helped lift her skating level.

The Olympics in Torino were magical for Simpson, Parchem and their families. Even though the pairs short program was the next day, the two went to the opening ceremony and when they were done competing took in the sights. As for the actual competition, knowing their placement didn't really matter, they let go of nerves.

"We ended up skating so well," Simpson said.

Following the 2006 World Championships, Parchem retired from skating and Simpson embarked on a professional career. She skated several contracts on Royal Caribbean International cruise ships — a different ship each time, so she learned different shows and saw new ports of call, from the Caribbean to Europe. Between ship contracts, she



Marcy Hinzmann Simpson has a passion for fashion, which she shares on her Instagram account.

spent two Christmases in Wolfsburg, Germany, doing an elaborate holiday show.

"For me to be able to still skate and do it for entertainment purposes was the best fit ever," she said. "Being in my 20s and traveling the world was wonderful."

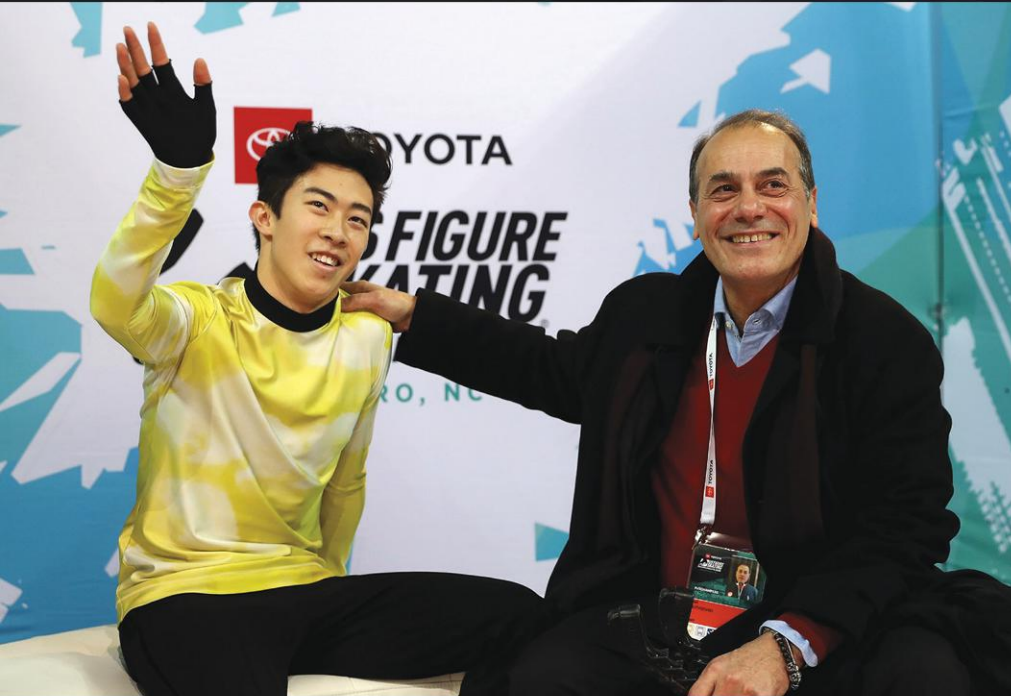
As a participant on season three of "Battle of the Blades," she was paired with Todd. Off the road, settled into life in Columbus, Ohio, and building a coaching career, she was initially on the fence about doing the show, but decided to give it a go since she had friends in the cast. Watching the hockey players learn to figure skate and grow as performers was enlightening, and seeing how much athletes have in common was a revelation that she and Todd still laugh about.

"Even though their sport is a game, they still love to perform," she said. "They are putting a show on."

They had two weddings — the first with just the two of them and Todd's two children in Kelowna and a second celebration with family in Mexico three months later.

Today, life is all about family. Todd works in real estate, and she runs his company's social media. He plays a weekly hockey game with fellow former NHL players. Simpson has a passion for fashion, which can be seen on her Instagram page, @mrsmarcy simpson. It's a creative outlet for her as she describes her fashion choices and how she combines low-end and high-end items to create her optimal look while not spending a fortune. She also posts family photos.

"We're totally made for each other," Simpson said of life with Todd. "We have a tremendous amount of respect for each other. We have a busy household, so we have to rely on each other. We are able to be that rock and that safe spot for each other. And we enjoy each other's company."



Nathan Chen waves to the fans after his spectacular free skate, with coach Rafael Arutunian by his side.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Alysa Liu shows her excitement after delivering a history-making free skate.

the first men's skater to win four consecutive U.S. titles since Brian Boitano (1985–88).

And 14-year-old Alysa Liu continued to win the hearts of fans everywhere, landing two triple Axels and attempting the first quad by a lady at the U.S. Championships en route



# 'INCREDIBLE MEMORIES'

*Great performances, emotional moments abound in Greensboro*

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Jason Brown won his first and so far only U.S. title in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 2015. On NBC's live broadcast of that event, Brown proclaimed his love for Greensboro and appreciation for the fans there.

After his emotional free skate at the 2020 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro Jan. 21–26, it was obvious that nothing had changed.

Brown left his heart and soul on the ice, and the fans inside the Greensboro Coliseum Complex let him know how much they treasured his riveting performance with a standing ovation. Tears filled his eyes in the kiss and cry as he stood and waved to everyone after hearing his scores.

"Greensboro is just such a special place for me," Brown said. "Hands down I have the most incredible memories and this crowd is

just so amazing. It fills me up with so much joy and I felt so relaxed and so confident out there."

Many other skaters and teams experienced similar goose-bump moments after their captivating performances, including Mariah Bell and the pairs team of Jessica Calalang and Brian Johnson, who enjoyed breakthrough competitions en route to silver medals.

The pairs team of Alexa and Chris Knierim and ice dancers Madison Chock and Evan Bates won their first U.S. titles in Greensboro in 2015, and got to relive those feelings as 2020 champions in the Tar Heel state.

Nathan Chen, who made his senior debut in Greensboro in 2015, further cemented his place on top of the figure skating world with another dominating victory, becoming



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Madison Chock and Evan Bates celebrate their first U.S. title since 2015.

to successfully defending her title.

More than 7 million viewers tuned in to watch the U.S. Championships across 11 live, same-day delayed or next-day delayed telecasts on NBC and NBC Sports Network. The telecasts combined to deliver 23 hours of coverage, including nine hours in prime time

After a tough stint following the 2018 Olympics, Alexa and Chris Knierim, with their coaches Jenni Meno and Todd Sand, savor the moment of victory.



Thursday through Saturday nights.

Highlights included Liu defending her title in front of nearly 2.4 million viewers on Friday night, and more than 2.7 million tuning in on figure skating's super Saturday as Chock and Bates won their first ice dance title since 2015, the Knierims claimed their third U.S. pairs title and Chen charged to the lead in the men's short program.

Coverage was capped off when nearly 1.2 million tuned in to watch the Skating Spectacular.

A total of 66,261 people walked through the turnstiles at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex to watch the competition. About 11,000 people checked out practices and the FanFest for free inside the venue.

The competition also played out well on U.S. Figure Skating's social media channels.

On Twitter, its account received more than 6.5 million impressions in the six-day period, including 13,100 retweets, 64,300 likes, a 1.9 percent engagement rate and 13,000 link clicks, according to Haley Maxwell, coordinator, digital media and fan engagement at U.S. Figure Skating.

On Instagram, she said, the account garnered more than 2.3 million impressions, growing by 2,700 followers and earning an average post reach of 47,835.

U.S. Figure Skating's Facebook account experienced a post reach of 2.8 million people, gaining 5,635 page followers, with a total of 710,125 (45 percent) post engagement.

## U.S. WORLD AND WORLD JUNIOR TEAM SELECTIONS

### 2020 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### LADIES

Mariah Bell  
 Bradie Tennell  
 Alternate 1 - Karen Chen  
 Alternate 2 - Amber Glenn  
 Alternate 3 - Starr Andrews

#### MEN

Jason Brown  
 Nathan Chen  
 Vincent Zhou  
 Alternate 1 - Tomoki Hiwatashi  
 Alternate 2 - Andrew Torgashev  
 Alternate 3 - Camden Pulkinen

#### PAIRS

Ashley Cain-Gribble/Timothy LeDuc  
 Alexa Knierim/Chris Knierim  
 Alternate 1 - Jessica Calalang/Brian Johnson  
 Alternate 2 - Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea  
 Alternate 3 - Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier

#### ICE DANCE

Madison Chock/Evan Bates  
 Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker  
 Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue  
 Alternate 1 - Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko  
 Alternate 2 - Caroline Green/Michael Parsons  
 Alternate 3 - Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter

### 2020 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### LADIES

Starr Andrews  
 Alysa Liu  
 Lindsay Thorngren  
 Alternate 1 - Audrey Shin  
 Alternate 2 - Gabriella Izzo  
 Alternate 3 - Isabelle Inthisonne  
 Alternate 4 - Calista Choi

#### MEN

Ilia Malinin  
 Maxim Naumov  
 Andrew Torgashev  
 Alternate 1 - Dinh Tran  
 Alternate 2 - Eric Sjoberg  
 Alternate 3 - Lucas Altieri  
 Alternate 4 - Liam Kapeikis

#### PAIRS

Winter Deardorff/Mikhail Johnson  
 Kate Finster/Balazs Nagy  
 Anastasiia Smirnova/Danil Siianytsia  
 Alternate 1 - Cate Fleming/Jedidiah Isbell

#### ICE DANCE

Oona Brown/Gage Brown  
 Avonley Nguyen/Vadym Kolesnik  
 Katarina Wolfkostin/Jeffrey Chen  
 Alternate 1 - Molly Cesanek/Yehor Yehorov  
 Alternate 2 - Katarina DelCamp/Ian Somerville  
 Alternate 3 - Angela Ling/Caleb Wein



## 'QUALITY OF A CHAMPION'

*Liu repeats as titlist; Bell brings the house down, Tennell claims bronze*

BY TAYLOR DEAN

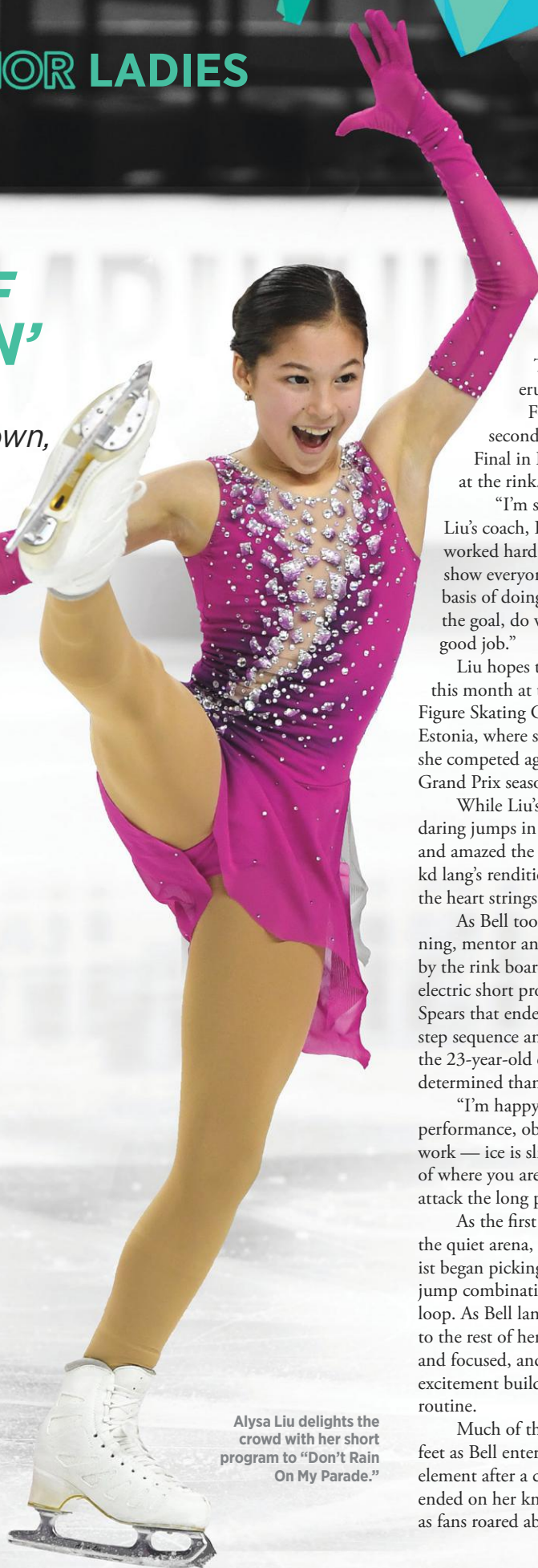
The ladies event at the 2020 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships was filled with suspense, tears and raw emotion. From the record-breaking free skate of defending champion Alysa Liu (St. Moritz ISC) to the magical performance of Mariah Bell (Rocky Mountain FSC) and the much-anticipated comeback of 2014 Olympian Gracie Gold (IceWorks SC), fans stood and cheered.

Liu became the youngest skater to win back-to-back U.S. titles and the first lady to attempt a quad at the U.S. Championships. With two clean triple Axels (one in combination), a quad Lutz attempt and four Level 4 elements in her free skate, Liu posted the highest technical score (91.75) ever in the ladies event.

The 14-year-old took the ice right after Bell's lights-out skate. With the crowd still in a frenzy, Liu stroked around as Bell awaited her scores. U.S. and World champion Kimmie Meissner, in Greensboro for induction into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame, watched as Liu prepared for her history-making performance.

"The crowd was just electric after Mariah, and I was thinking, 'This is just so much pressure for a little person,' but you wouldn't even know. She didn't even look nervous — she handled it so great, and that's the quality of a champion."

Liu didn't waver as she took her starting position. With a serene smile, the California native went into her jumps without hesitation, landing everything in her free skate to



Alysa Liu delights the crowd with her short program to "Don't Rain On My Parade."

"Illumination" by Jennifer Thomas; the crowd then erupted again.

For the skater who finished second at the Junior Grand Prix Final in December, it was another day at the rink.

"I'm so happy and proud of her," Liu's coach, Laura Lipetsky, said. "She's worked hard, and she wanted so badly to show everyone what she does on a daily basis of doing clean programs. That was the goal, do what she could do and do a good job."

Liu hopes to continue the momentum this month at the ISU 2020 World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Tallinn, Estonia, where she will face off against skaters she competed against during the Junior Grand Prix season.

While Liu's overall score of 235.52 and daring jumps in Greensboro broke records and amazed the audience, Bell's free skate to kd lang's rendition of "Hallelujah" tugged at the heart strings in a different way.

As Bell took to the ice that Friday evening, mentor and coach Adam Rippon stood by the rink boards, cheering her on. After an electric short program to music by Britney Spears that ended with a shocking fall in the step sequence and landed Bell in third place, the 23-year-old entered the free skate more determined than ever.

"I'm happy with my [short program] performance, obviously not with the footwork — ice is slippery," she said. "Regardless of where you are in the short, you want to attack the long program."

As the first chords of "Hallelujah" filled the quiet arena, the 2019 U.S. bronze medalist began picking up speed into her opening jump combination: a triple flip-triple toe loop. As Bell landed the jump and moved on to the rest of her elements, she remained calm and focused, and the audience could feel the excitement build as she neared the end of her routine.

Much of the audience was already on its feet as Bell entered her layback spin, the final element after a clean, expressive program. She ended on her knees, overcome with emotion as fans roared above her, creating an unfor-



## 2020 TOYOTA U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS SENIOR LADIES

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

gettable memory for everyone.

As she glided off the ice, Rippon waited for her with open arms. They cried together as she received her score: a personal-best 151.99 points, and 225.21 overall, enough for the silver medal. It was the highest finish for Bell at a U.S. Championships.

“The coolest thing about it was how alive the crowd was,” Bell said. “They were loud, and it was so cool. I love that I get to share what I love to do with an audience like that. I feel fortunate to have had that experience.”

Notable skaters witnessed Bell’s dramatic skate, including 2010 U.S. champion and Olympian Rachael Flatt.

“It made me reminisce about when I won my national championship and how that felt and how emotional it was with the crowd behind me and everything,” Flatt said. “It was really wonderful to be in the stands and see that moment come to fruition for her.”

The mentorship between Rippon and Bell was on full display. Bell officially added the 2016 U.S. champion and 2018 Olympian to her coaching staff last summer, and he has worked with her all season, particularly on the choreography for her Britney Spears short program.

Liu delivers a clutch free skate to repeat as champion.



(l-r) U.S. ladies medalists Mariah Bell, Alysa Liu, Bradie Tennell and Karen Chen

“Skating has given me a lot of opportunities and I want to be able to give back, especially to athletes who really want to improve, and Mariah [Bell] is one of those people,” Rippon said. “She’s one of those special athletes who always wants to grow, and I’m honored that Rafael [Arutunian] trusted me to be a part of her team and to have such a big role in helping her get ready.

“I think of all of the moments I’ve had in my own skating career, this might top them because being able to help someone achieve their own dreams is just so incredible.”

Bronze medalist Bradie Tennell (Skokie Valley SC) arrived looking to return to the top of the podium, but a week of unforeseen events threw a curveball at the 2018 U.S. champion. Earlier in the week, the 22-year-old noticed her elbow was swollen and painful; it had bothered her occasionally since a fall a few months ago. The day before the short program, she woke up and couldn’t bend her arm. A visit with the medical team helped with her diagnosis: an infected hematoma.

“Let’s just say I’m thankful my mom’s a nurse that has worked in the ER for 25 years,” Tennell said.

Despite the setback, Tennell focused on the competition and delivered two solid programs.

“This thing with my arm threw me off more than ever before, so it was more challenging for me to compete here than I think even at the [Grand Prix] Final,” she said. “I haven’t skated like myself all week. I used the

time between the warm-up and the [short program] skate to remind myself that I do this every day. Once the music started, it was like, ‘All right, I can breathe.’”

Tennell’s electric short program, set to “Chronos” and “Mechanisms” by Kirill Richter, was a crowd favorite. The 2018 Olympian stepped on the ice with assurance, dressed in a bright red dress. No one in the audience questioned her confidence in her skating, as she landed every jump and won the short program with 78.96 points, a record at the U.S. Championships.

This playful program shows a new side to Tennell’s skating.

“It’s fun for me to be able to put that into my skating and explore that side of myself because I’ve generally kept it more reserved on the ice,” she said. “I feel like it’s a new chapter, bringing a different side to my skating.”

Tennell, who finished fifth at her first Grand Prix Final in December, went into the free skate with the same focused mindset she had in her short program. Skating to *Cinema Paradiso* and donning a new white dress with colorful rhinestones, the 2019 U.S. silver medalist delivered a near-flawless program to score 141.90 and 220.86 overall. Her one mistake was a fall on a triple loop, a jump Tennell said is one of her most solid.

“Of course, nobody wants to fall on their best jump, but things happen,” she said. “Even with the couple errors, I think I’m still proud of it.”

Pewter medalist Karen Chen (Peninsula SC) returned to the U.S. Championships



2020 TOYOTA U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
**SENIOR LADIES**



**Mariah Bell gives the performance of her life in Greensboro. The U.S. silver medalist thanks the crowd who stood and cheered following a flawless and powerful free skate to "Hallelujah" by k.d lang.**

after a year away dealing with a stress fracture in her foot. She started with a heartfelt short program to "You Say" by Lauren Daigle, posting a score of 70.41 points. With the goal of a quality free skate, the Cornell University freshman opened with a beautiful triple Lutz followed by a double Axel-triple toe loop combination. The 20-year-old, however, made mistakes on subsequent jumps. Her 123.24-point program was enough to boost her one spot into fourth place and onto the podium with an overall score of 193.65.

"I've definitely trained harder and done better," Chen said. "I lost a little bit of rhythm but compared to the things I put out in the Grand Prix season, this is definitely an improvement. I honestly felt like I gave it my all today. ... I'm disappointed with how I skated, but this season I was juggling

so much."

Chen also returned to the international stage this season, finishing eighth and ninth, respectively, at 2019 Skate America presented by American Cruise Lines and 2019 NHK Trophy.

After the Four Continents Championships, Chen returned to Ithaca, New York, where she's studying human development in Cornell University's College of Human Ecology. While she's still learning the ropes of balancing full-time school with full-time skating, she's grateful for the experience.

"The change in environment was definitely challenging," she said. "The campus rink doesn't have a lot of ice time, so I have to drive 10 to 15 minutes to this rink in Ithaca that thankfully is able to give me a lot of ice time. Being on campus has opened my mind,

and it's great to make friends outside the skating world."

Another former U.S. champion turned in a valiant effort in Greensboro.

Gold fought her way back to the U.S. Championships after two seasons away healing mentally and emotionally. Skating the final segment to "She Used to Be Mine" by Sara Bareilles, the 24-year-old delivered an emotional four-minute performance. Though she didn't finish in the top 10, her performance brought the audience to tears and had them on their feet in support of a well-earned comeback.

"I was excited, relieved ... just overwhelmed, and the audience reaction was very powerful," she said. "I think we've earned another year."

**Bradie Tennell put out two sterling performances despite dealing with an elbow injury.**







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## Hey, Good Looking

There they go again. Highlander and Camry. Turning heads wherever they go. The asphalt is their runway, as these two beauties bring sexy back to the cul-de-sac. But then again, some things are always fashionable. *Let's Go Places.*

Some vehicles prototypes. All models shown with options. ©2019 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.



# 'THRILLED WITH THE RESULTS'

*Chen achieves 4th in a row; Brown takes home silver with emotional skate; Hiwatashi earns bronze*

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Nathan Chen (Salt Lake Figure Skating) admitted he wasn't as prepared to compete as he normally is prior to the 2020 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Flu and a fever literally put him on his back just weeks from the event in Greensboro, North Carolina.

About a week to 10 days before the competition, the sophomore at Yale University was able to start running programs and resume full training.

Despite the interruption, Chen proved yet again why he's the world's best skater by delivering a record-breaking short program and a clean, four-quad free skate that vaulted him to his fourth consecutive U.S. title.

"There have been one or two other instances where I've been less prepared for a nationals," Chen, 20, said. "But I was able to make good use of the week that I had; I was relatively healthy and able to get myself back in check before this competition. I've had a lot of experience the past few years competing in different situations, and I think that helped

to keep me in a positive mindset and enjoy the experience as much as I could."

Chen's programs garnered him an overall score of 330.17, some 37.29 points more than silver medalist Jason Brown (Skokie Valley SC), who produced two outstanding performances of his own. Tomoki Hiwatashi (DuPage FSC), the pewter medalist in 2019, took another step forward by winning the bronze medal with 278.08 points. Vincent Zhou (SC of San Francisco) secured the pewter medal after missing the entire Grand Prix season, as he concentrated on his studies at Brown University.

"Needless to say, I'm thrilled with the results,"

Chen said after the free skate. "I stayed

consistent throughout the week and performed pretty well today. Technical-wise, a couple of jump landings were a little shaky. I wasn't as controlled and calm as I felt throughout the short program, but overall I'm happy."

With his fourth consecutive title, Chen equaled the feat of Brian Boitano, who last accomplished the four-peat (1985–88). Boitano, Olympic champion Scott Hamilton and Olympic silver medalist Paul Wylie all were in Greensboro to work and watch the competition.

Chen, who continues to chisel out his place on the Mount Rushmore of U.S. men's figure skating, said simply being in the conversation along with these legendary skaters means a lot to him.

"It's a huge deal for me to be able to take the next step and follow in their footsteps," Chen said. "These guys have done amazing things well beyond what I've already accomplished, and it's great to be able to have that sort of inspiration in front of you."

"I'm just trying to see how far I can take myself. I don't know whether I'll be able to match all the things they did — you know, Scott, Brian, Dick (Button) and others — but it's truly amazing to be able to follow in their footsteps this way."

Hamilton, who won four consecutive U.S. titles (1981–84) himself, said, "Nathan Chen is a phenom."

"I don't think there has been a time in figure skating history where there has been a skater this dominant. Quite literally, when Nathan is on his game, where can a skater earn enough points to defeat him? Nathan

Nathan Chen ignited the crowd with an electric hip-hop sequence in his *Rocketman* free skate.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



## 2020 TOYOTA U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS SENIOR MEN

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



(l-r) U.S. men's medalists Jason Brown, Nathan Chen, Tomoki Hiwataishi and Vincent Zhou

has the ability to skate the rest of his competitive life undefeated. It'll be amazing to watch him continue his pursuit of history."

Wylie, who served as the honorary chair of the 2020 U.S. Championships, can best relate to Chen's demanding training schedule and the academic rigors of an Ivy League school. Wylie trained for major competitions while attending Harvard.

"I think Nathan is clearly the leader in the clubhouse and he's so impressive to watch, especially considering what he's doing at school. I have never seen anybody do it with as much aplomb. There's been nobody that's matched that since Dick Button, and I think he deserves our utmost respect."

In Greensboro, Chen sent a clear message that he was ready, with a quad flip to open his short program to "La Bohème" by Charles Aznavour. Moments later he landed a quad toe loop-triple toe loop combination that counted for 19.01 points. With his Level 4 spins and footwork and nearly perfect program components, Chen broke his own short program record with 114.13 points.

"It was one of my best short programs," Chen said. "Everything felt really calm, really paced throughout the program. I thought I was in control of everything that I was doing."

His clean free skate to music from the *Rocketman* soundtrack featured four quads, two done in combination. Chen ended his free skate with his signature electric hip-hop

**With his four-peat, Chen has duplicated the feats of Olympic champions Scott Hamilton and Brian Boitano.**



sequence. His free skate score was second only to the one he posted last year in Detroit.

Former training mate and fellow Olympian of Chen, Adam Rippon, joined coach Rafael Arutunian rinkside for Chen's performance.

"I was sitting in the athlete lounge and Rafael started yelling at me, 'Get over here,' so he made me go down rinkside," Rippon said. "... I'm holding his [skate] guards and water bottle, while Rafael is running around. I'm just so in awe of somebody who I've seen since I was a little kid really develop into somebody who is just a legend in the sport I love. He didn't skate to music that's emotional, but I got emotional just thinking of all the times I saw him struggle in practice and push through."

Brown arrived in Greensboro with fond memories of his 2015 U.S. title in the Tar-Heel State, but determined to perform two clean programs for the first time this season.

The 2014 Olympian started the current season injured after a car wreck in late August in Southern California that caused a concussion and whiplash. Crippling headaches as well as nausea limited Brown's training up until his first Grand Prix event in late October.

At Skate America and NHK Trophy, Brown struggled with his short program to "I Can't Go On Without You" by KALEO, finishing fourth and eighth in the segment.

He wasn't about to let that happen again. Brown performed a clean program that featured four triple jumps — one in combination — and posted the best component score of the segment. His overall score of

100.99 was a personal best.

"There's one thing I've learned from the short [program] this year — not to take anything for granted," Brown said. "I actually struggled a lot, unfortunately, with the short program this year. I love it so much and I so badly wanted to perform it to the quality and the way I know I could here."

His free skate on Sunday afternoon proved to be one of the signature moments of these U.S. Championships. Performing to the somber music from Steven Spielberg's 1993 film *Schindler's List*, Brown had the audience experiencing the program's raw emotion and significance.

Technically, he landed eight triple jumps — three in combination — and received Level 4s for spins and footwork. He attempted one quad, but it was downgraded.

After a powerful four minutes on the ice, Brown finished on his knees, completely spent, with eyes welling up. A standing ovation lifted him to his feet.

It was a program that only this year, at age 25, Brown felt he could do justice to, he said, on the eve of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

"I try every time I go out to perform this piece; it's something I try to transcend," Brown said. "It's more than just skating in those moments, it's about putting on this performance, about making people remember and making people aware. At the same time, it's a performance and a bit of a celebration as far as putting your heart and soul into the piece."

Brown spent a few days before the U.S. Championships with choreographer and



SENIOR MEN

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Jason Brown's moving performance to music from *Schindler's List* was delivered on the eve of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

personal bests.

"Yes, that's probably the best skating I've done [since the 2014 Olympics]," Brown said. "I have a long way to go as far as the technical aspect and the skating skills that we continue to work on."

Hiwatashi continued his upward trajectory by skating two clean programs that featured a total of three quads — one in combination to open his free skate to *Petrushka* by Igor Stravinsky.

The Colorado Springs-based skater arrived with a goal of improving his short program to "Love Runs Out" by One Republic.

"I was worried most about my short program," Hiwatashi said. "I wasn't able to perform it the way I wanted to during my two Grand Prix events, and it wasn't until after NHK [Trophy, the final event in the Grand Prix Series] that I was able to start knocking out clean short programs.

"This year I put a quad into my short, just trying to do a more exciting program. I think it's gotten a lot better than last year."

Hiwatashi also wanted to make sure he remained focused following Brown in the short program skate order.

"The last time I skated after Jason I did this terrible short program," he said. "I was like I need to skate well to get out of the habit of making excuses."

Hiwatashi, the 2019 World Junior champion, said he practiced as hard as ever this season to protect and/or improve his placement from last year's U.S. Championships. He credited his training mates —

Andrew Torgashev (Broadmoor SC), Camden Pulkinen (Broadmoor SC) and Vincent Zhou — with pushing each other to become better.

Torgashev, who placed third in the short program and fifth overall in Greensboro, and Pulkinen, who finished seventh overall, each landed quads in one or both of their programs.

"He's grown into his own," coach Damon Allen said of Hiwatashi. "He's known for being able to deliver."

Hiwatashi continues to work on his program components, Allen said, and he's got a quad Salchow on the back burner that he hopes will be competition-ready soon.

Zhou showed little rust in his return to competition, finishing fourth in both segments en route to an overall score of 275.23. After sitting out the Grand Prix Series, the freshman at Brown University moved to Toronto in late December to train under Lee Barkell and his team.

Zhou delivered two clean programs, each with a quad Salchow and more triple-triple combinations.

"That was a huge personal victory for me," Zhou said following his free skate to music from the *Cloud Atlas* soundtrack. "Obviously, it was about as good as I could have possibly done at this moment. I have more in my tank, but for me just overcoming everything that I've been through in the second half of last year, it's a huge personal victory."



former coach Rohene Ward in Chicago to enhance his performances.

"It was a little bit of a jump-start for me in that we were able to implement new things the Toronto team's way with some of the old training methods," Brown said.

Brown finished with a free skate score of 191.89 and an overall score of 292.88, both

Tomoki Hiwatashi produced his first clean short program of the season in Greensboro.





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## 'REDEMPTION'

*Knierims claim third title; Calalang and Johnson grab silver, Kayne and O'Shea gain bronze*

At the start of this season, Alexa Knierim and Chris Knierim found themselves in an unaccustomed role: underdogs for the U.S. title.

"We feel that many people probably have kind of written us off, because we're an old married couple and we're kind of labeled 'can't get it together,'" Alexa said at Champs Camp, held in late August at the couple's home rink in Irvine, California.

"That's almost an advantage, because I feel like for so long, we were considered the front-runners. I still believe we are. We're trying to show we can get it together."

Alexa Knierim (DuPage FSC) and Chris Knierim (Broadmoor SC) hold two U.S. titles (2015, 2018) and played an instrumental role in Team USA's bronze medal at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The couple, married since 2016, have competed at the World Figure Skating Championships five times, placing a career-high seventh in 2015.

Last season, though, was tumultuous. In the summer of 2018, after many years in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the skaters moved to Oberstdorf, Germany, to train with Olympic pairs champion Aliona Savchenko. It didn't work out, and early that fall they returned to the U.S. to live temporarily in Chicago, Alexa's hometown.

Then, in November 2018, the couple began training with three-time U.S. pairs champions Jenni Meno and Todd Sand in Irvine. It was too late to salvage the season: At the 2019 U.S. Championships in Detroit, they finished a career-worst seventh. The following month, Chris underwent wrist surgery.



But all of those travails were just memories in Greensboro, where the "old married couple" performed a record-breaking short program and won their third U.S. title in six years.

"Last year was a challenge for them, it was hard, they were just trying to survive, I think," Sand said. "It took a while to get going, but now they are doing great."

The Knierims held off a strong charge from training mates Jessica Calalang (DuPage FSC) and Brian Johnson (Detroit SC), who delivered a riveting, event-best free skate to collect the silver medal. Tarah Kayne (Broadmoor SC) and Danny O'Shea (SC of New York), the 2016 U.S. champions, were also strong, earning the bronze medal, while defending champions Ashley Cain-Gribble (SC of New York) and Timothy LeDuc (Los Angeles FSC) claimed the pewter medal.

The Knierims' short program, set to Beyoncé's rendition of "At Last," brought the house down and ultimately proved decisive to their title win. A soaring triple twist opened the program; moments later, they landed their side-by-side triple toe loops and flawlessly executed the rest of their elements. Their score of 77.06 points set a new U.S. Championships record, and they led Kayne and O'Shea by nearly seven points entering the free skate.

It was the performance the Knierims had hoped for since the 2018 Olympics.

"I feel like the emotions I let out at the end have just been bottled up inside for a while, because it's been quite the struggle post-Olympic season," Alexa said.

"We've had a few little highs here and there, but nothing to really make me feel complete inside. I've been waiting for this moment to come again; I've been dreaming about it, and I'm just proud that we were able to put it out there tonight."

Nailing their side-by-side jumps in the short — a nemesis element for them over the years — was a special victory. They credited technical wizard Rafael Arutunian, who joined their coaching team this season.

"We've been working with Raf a lot, and it's kind of changed everything we've been doing as far as the jumps are concerned,"

Chris said. "It's not perfect yet, but I think we have been going in the right direction this season."

"(Arutunian) is very honest with you and he knows this year is going to be a bit of a struggle, with old technique and old habits



2020 TOYOTA U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
SENIOR PAIRS



(l-r) Jessica Calalang/Brian Johnson, Alexa Knierim/Christopher Knierim, Tarah Kayne/Danny O'Shea, Ashley Cain-Gribble/Timothy LeDuc

rearing their heads. But he has confidence in us and believes in us that next season, (we will be) able to be much more consistent, competition to competition, with the jumps.”

Despite the solid lead, the Knierims found themselves with plenty of work to do after watching Calalang and Johnson produce a spectacular free skate to the slow-tempo song “You Are the Reason” by Calum Scott and Leona Lewis.

The second-year team, fifth at the 2019 U.S. Championships, opened with a towering triple twist, then transitioned effortlessly from one solid element to the next. Their lifts and jumps were confident; their throws, secure. As they finished their combination spin, the moment hit them when the crowd rose and cheered.

“I don’t think either of us have had that kind of performance at a U.S. Championships,” said Calalang, who embraced Johnson at center ice with tears in her eyes.

“The amount of audience support that I felt at the very end of that program was overwhelming,” Johnson said. “It was the most amazing thing I’ve felt on the ice. I don’t have words to describe it.”

The judges agreed, awarding them a free skate U.S. record score of 146.01 and an

overall score of 213.57, prompting Johnson to stand, pump his fists and exclaim, “We crushed it!”

NBC commentator Tanith White raved about the performance.

“All season, every time they’ve skated, they’ve shown improvement in all areas of

their skating,” she said. “They just put it all together on a national stage.”

Before the season started, Calalang said she and Johnson hoped to be awarded two senior B events this season; instead, they impressed U.S. Figure Skating officials so much that they competed four times internationally, including at Skate America and Skate Canada. Those experiences, they said, helped them compete under pressure, in front of a packed house.

“It was a great doing the Grand Prix, because we had amazing audiences at Skate America and Skate Canada,” Johnson said. “It was that way here as well, with an amazing support base.”

With Calalang and Johnson in the clubhouse with the lead, Kayne and O’Shea performed their free skate to a medley from *Les Misérables*. The Colorado Springs-based team delivered a convincing performance to the Broadway classic, with just minor deductions for the landings on the throw triples. They finished with a score of 133.72 for the segment and 204.07 overall.

“It was not a bad program today,” O’Shea said. “We went out there and we stood up on everything, which is always a good thing for us. We left some points out there. We felt that it was an improvement as the program has progressed over the season.”

Skating last, the Knierims took the ice for their free skate to “Drop of Fragrance,” composed by Maxim Rodriguez, and “Experience,” by Ludovico Einaudi.

The couple began with their signature element: a huge triple twist, one of the finest in the world. Moments later, Chris fell on a

The Knierims’ short program to “At Last” was the clean routine they had been hoping for since the 2018 Olympics.



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



SENIOR PAIRS



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Jessica Calalang and Brian Johnson's spectacular free skate set a new U.S. record and brought the crowd to its feet.

triple toe loop. Regrouping, they executed a beautiful throw triple loop, softly landed by Alexa. Although they elected to double planned triple Salchows, the rest of their elements were nearly flawless. The Knierims' free skate score of 139.09 and overall tally of 216.15 points was more than enough to hold off Calalang and Johnson and earn a third U.S. title.

"Redemption always feels good," Alexa said. "It was hard last year to come so low.



Tarah Kayne and Danny O'Shea arrived in Greensboro with a new short program to DeBussy's "Claire de Lune" and produced one of their finest performances.

We worked hard and we have work to do still, but we are elated to be able to regain our title again and have three. I hope this continues to push us forward at Four Continents and Worlds."

Winning the U.S. title, Chris said, makes all of their sacrifices worth it.

"We coach a lot, which we really didn't do in Colorado, because it's so expensive in California," he said. "When we got to California, I had to sell all of my cars, so now I have a motorcycle and Alexa has her car and that's about it. It was sad, because I had to sell the Camaro (a prized possession for years). We have sacrificed a lot to be there and we are so thankful that it's paid off."

The Knierims, and Calalang and Johnson, praised the skating environment that coaches Meno and Sand have created in Irvine.

"We respect each other," Chris said. "We hang out. Brian comes over and we work on cars. He had a beautiful Fiero in our garage for a while. On the ice, we focus on ourselves and do our training. Jenni and Todd do a great job managing both of us. We switch off working with each of them, so it's a great dynamic."

"It's very professional and very mature," Alexa said of the relationship with Calalang and Johnson. "While Chris and Brian are

working on cars, Jess and I are having lattes and petting cats. I couldn't be more proud of them for the way they skated. I watched them backstage because I genuinely care for them."

Meno and Sand, who competed at two Olympic Winter Games and won three World medals in their illustrious career, said it's a pleasure to coach both teams.

"All four of them are such great people," Sand said. "The way they support each other day to day is truly amazing."

It was a challenging event for Cain-Gribble and LeDuc, who entered the free skate in third place after the death spiral in their short program was ruled invalid by the technical panel.

Although the defending champions executed a strong triple twist and side-by-side triple loops in their free skate, a near-miss on their throw triple Lutz, as well as a shaky lift, hurt their score. They placed fourth with 197.12 points.

"We have a lot of valuable lessons to take away from this competition," LeDuc said. "I feel like we both tried our absolute hardest. We felt a lot of pressure going into this competition, not just defending the title but also for us as athletes."

*Katie Schumacher contributed to this story.*



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## 'A NEW PASSION'

*Revitalized Chock and Bates soar to second title, five years after first; Hubbell and Donohue, Hawayek and Baker secure silver, bronze*

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

When Madison Chock and Evan Bates won the 2015 U.S. ice dance title in Greensboro, it seemed the world was at their feet.

After a glorious six-year reign, Meryl Davis and Charlie White had departed the competitive ranks upon winning gold at the 2014 Olympics. With their elegance and stunning lifts, Chock (All Year FSC) and Bates (Ann Arbor FSC) were worthy successors. A silver medal at the 2015 World Championships followed the seeming coronation in Greensboro, and it looked as if the couple might glide into the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics as top U.S. medal favorites.

But this is the golden age of U.S. ice dance, when a wobble on a twizzle or slight stumble on a step can easily cost gold. Although they won World bronze in 2016, Chock and Bates were repeatedly edged out by teammates Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani (2016, 2017), and Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue (2018, 2019) for the U.S. crown.

So, when a reporter asked the skaters how it felt to win a second U.S. title in Greensboro five years after the first, Chock's response wasn't a surprise.

"It feels longer than five years," she said. "So much has changed. ... So much in us, as people, has changed. It's a great feeling, to feel that growth and to come back to Greensboro with that perspective."

Many of the changes are inspiring. After years of warm friendship, the skaters' off-ice relationship blossomed into love. In the summer of 2018, they moved to Montreal, where coaches Marie-France Dubreuil and Patrice Lauzon breathed new life into their perfor-

mances, and where they enjoy everything the romantic city has to offer.

"We feel a new passion — our passion never died, but it's been sparked and reinvigorated again," Bates said last season.

There was also plenty of pain during those five years: winning the free dance at the U.S. Championships in 2017 and 2018, only to place second and third, respectively, overall. A heartbreaking fall in their free dance in PyeongChang. Chock's long recovery from ankle surgery that cost them the first half of the 2018–19 season.

"We needed some big changes, just to feel reinvigorated for the next four-year (Olympic) cycle," Bates said.

After creating buzz for themselves during the second half of last season with fresh choreography and ever-more spectacular

lifts, Chock and Bates kicked it up several more notches this season, winning a silver medal at the Grand Prix Final in Torino, Italy, in December. There, they bested Hubbell and Donohue (Lansing SC), who won bronze.

The couple arrived in Greensboro as something they had not been for several years: co-favorites for the title.

"I do feel we've created some momentum for ourselves," Bates said. "We're really training hard and working for what's to come. Not just being satisfied with what's happened thus far, but really trying to improve our performance quality, and just deliver the kind of performances we want to deliver to the home crowd."

The team sizzled in a rhythm dance to Cole Porter's "It's Too Darn Hot," a sparkling

Madison Chock and Evan Bates' exotic and intricate "Egyptian snake dance" has mesmerized fans and judges all season long.

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2020 TOYOTA U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
SENIOR ICE DANCE

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



(l-r) U.S. ice dance medalists Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, Madison Chock/Evan Bates, Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker and Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko

routine that opened with a stunning straight-line lift showing off Chock's flexibility and Bates' strength and secure edges. It was not without error: Chock had a noticeable bobble on a step sequence, but was able to catch herself before losing an edge. The program scored an impressive 87.63 points.

"I think it was as free and spontaneous as we've been in this program all season, and that's really been the goal for us," Bates said.

Hubbell and Donohue, who also train in Montreal under Dubreuil and Lauzon, performed their playful routine to a Marilyn Monroe-inspired medley of "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" and "Let's Be Bad" with speed and attack, but lost ground when three of their elements gained just Level 3. They earned 86.31 points to enter the free dance 1.32 points behind their longtime rivals.

"We've been working a lot on the speed and the dynamic quality of our skating," Hubbell said. "There were some technical mistakes today with three trips in the program and an unexpected level on the lift."

All season long, Chock and Bates' striking and mysterious "Egyptian snake dance" has grabbed attention, and it did not disappoint in Greensboro. From a sinuous opening curve lift, through intricate step sequences and perfectly synchronized arm movements, the free dance

Performed their rhythm dance to the Cole Porter standard "It's Too Darn Hot," a sizzling Chock and Bates nearly melted the ice.



roused the crowd and scored big with the judging panel. It earned 134.23 points, giving Chock and Bates a total score of 221.86.

Performing to the exotic music, including Raul Ferrando's "Yearning" and DJ Quincy Ortiz's "Sahara Nights" was the skaters' idea, and their coaches came quickly aboard.

"They thought it was a good fit," Chock said. "Everyone was having fun with the con-

cept. It was Marie's idea for me to be a snake and Evan to be a traveler who finds me. It was such a fun process, such a cool character for us to dive into."

Unlike Chock and Bates, Hubbell and Donohue made considerable changes to their free dance, set to music from the 2018 film *A Star Is Born*, throughout the season, including re-ordering the elements and removing some voiceovers in the middle section.

In Greensboro, the country-rock-style program radiated raw energy and charisma. Still, the skaters left the ice disappointed, due to an unusual mishap: the couple exited their first element, the dance spin, incorrectly, causing them to skate much of the routine facing the wrong direction.

As Hubbell described it, the team's twizzles and one-foot step sequences both "charged away" from the judges, and the rotational lift was not shown to best advantage.

"On every element, we weren't fully in it," she said. "Certainly, we create our elements to look a certain way for the judges. Some of the accents, the eye contact was really lost."

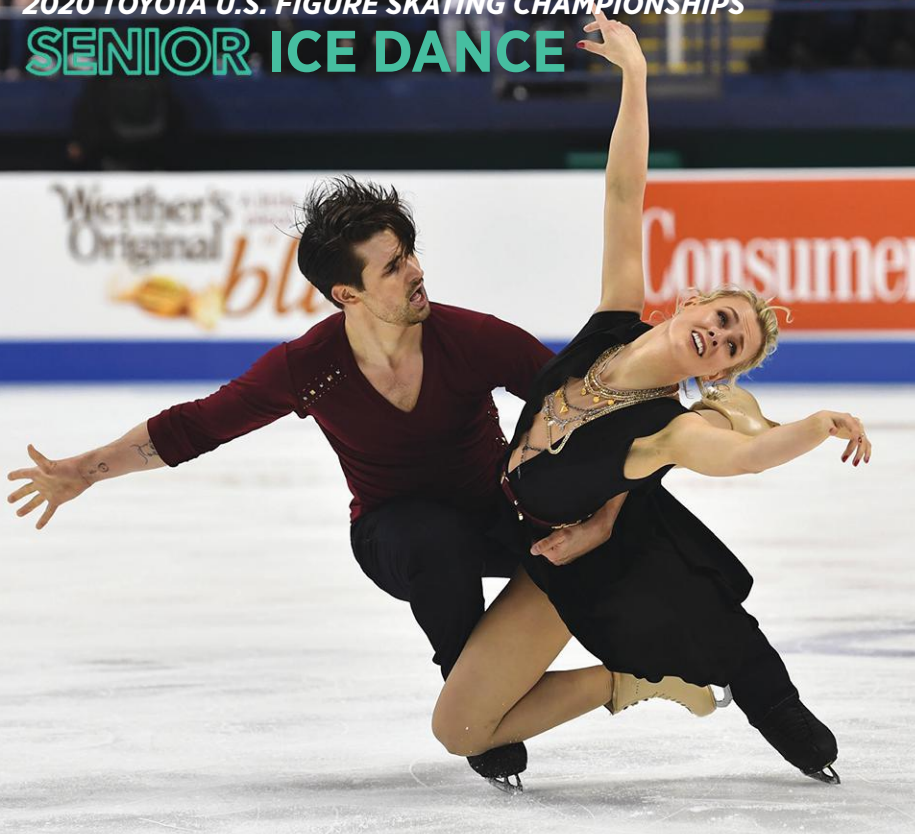
Despite the problem, there were no obvious mistakes in the routine, which gained almost all Level 4s for its elements and earned 130.88 points. Hubbell and Donohue finished with a score of 217.19 to win the silver medal for the first time; they also have four bronze medals, in addition to their two golds.

"We felt like we made a lot of improvements in our skating quality, especially for the free dance, and we were really looking forward to giving it our best performance," Hubbell said. "And we felt like we did that in practices. It didn't feel like the performance we wanted to



2020 TOYOTA U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
**SENIOR ICE DANCE**

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue's *A Star is Born* free dance crackled with raw energy and charisma, despite a "wrong-way" turn.

give, but that's competition. That's athletics." Chock and Bates' five-year span between ice dance titles is the longest since the 1920s. In those five years, three teams have won the U.S. title, and all three of them brought home two World medals. (The Shibanians also won World bronze in 2011.)

"It goes to show how incredibly strong and deep the ice dance field is in the U.S.," Chock said. "It's a testament to the athletes themselves and how far we push ourselves to be the best we can be. None of us have hit our peak yet; there is tons more room for us to improve."

Chock and Bates, and Hubbell and Donohue, have now squared off at the U.S. Championships nine times. At the 2020 World Figure Skating Championships in March, held in their training home of Montreal, they will each fight for the podium. Would either team be as successful, without the other pushing them every step of the way?

"That's a hard question to answer," Lauzon said. "It's a benefit when teams are able to train together and push each other. It definitely helps to keep yourself motivated and on the ice. Everyone in our center so far has been able to cope pretty well with it, grow from the experience."

The depth in the ranks is further proven by the skating skills and performance quality of the teams placing just behind the leaders, especially the third Montreal-based U.S.

couple, Kaitlin Hawayek (Detroit SC) and Jean-Luc Baker (Seattle SC).

Hawayek and Baker practically stole the show in the rhythm dance with their incredibly entertaining routine to music from *Saturday Night Fever*, which earned a standing ovation. The high-energy program was packed with authentic 1970s era disco moves, courtesy of Montreal ballroom dance coach Ginette Cournoyer, and placed third with 82.59 points.

"A lot of disco movement is actually very similar to Latin movement in terms of hip movement and upper carriage," Hawayek said. "There are small changes of course, like the hand articulation, but we've had a lot of fun working with (Cournoyer) to create the authentic dance movement."

The skaters were less enthusiastic about the performance of their free dance, set to a flamenco-style arrangement of Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5" and Polish guitarist Marcin Patrzalek's "Caprice No. 4."

While the program earned strong levels for its step sequences, lifts and twizzles, and flowed well across the ice, the skaters felt it lacked some of the dramatic flair of prior performances this season.

"We were happy to put out another clean and executed performance from beginning to end," Hawayek said. "This program is a development and both Jean-Luc and I see the potential much higher than what we put out today. ... We're looking forward to put-

ting out a more intact, more fully performed program as the season goes on."

Hawayek and Baker earned a total of 201.16 points to win their second consecutive bronze medal.

Up-and-comers Christina Carreira (SC of New York) and Anthony Ponomarenko (SC of San Francisco), who train in Novi, Michigan, under Igor Shpilband and Pasquale Camerlengo, arrived with hopes of challenging for the bronze medal.

"[Our coaches] have us doing double run-through weeks, triple run-throughs, even quadruple run-throughs, to make sure we're fully ready," Carreira said before the competition. "We're drilling a lot more, so at nationals we go in 100 percent confident."

The young couple performed a light and charming rhythm dance to "It's Too Darn Hot," earning 78.02 points. They hit trouble, though, in their free dance, set to a flamenco medley of "Farrucas" and "Malaguena," when their choreographed step sequence was ruled invalid. Otherwise, the routine was strong, and they placed fourth with 194.16 points.

Caroline Green (Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights) and Michael Parsons (Washington FSC), who teamed up last June, had an impressive U.S. Championships debut, placing fifth with 180.25 points.

Previously, the skaters had each won novice and junior titles with their siblings, Gordon Green and Rachel Parsons.

"We definitely have some goals that are long term," Parsons said. "We've made a lot of progress this year, obviously, starting from zero. Nationals has been the culmination of our work so far. We've got a lot more to do, for sure."

Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker nearly stole the show with their *Saturday Night Fever* rhythm dance.



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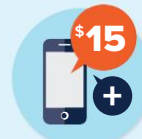
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# TOP 8 MOMENTS FROM THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY JACKIE WONG

I must admit that was one of the most memorable U.S. Championships I've witnessed in quite a while. It really was a collection of moments.

## "HALLELUJAH," A CLEAN PROGRAM

Perhaps the most defining moment of the U.S. Championships was Mariah Bell's stunning free skate. Skaters put down clean programs, but there was magic that accompanied this one — it was a glorious skate that enveloped the entire audience. The crowd was deafening. It's a rare moment that few are privileged to have.

## SURPRISING THEMSELVES

Jessica Calalang and Brian Johnson knew they had the potential to be good, but even they had no idea they could be as great as they were in their free skate. They were in the zone and delivered one of the best pairs free skates in event history.

## FINDING HIS VOICE

There's something to the ownership of self-choreography. Andrew Torgashev embodied his music in his short program, which he choreographed with help from Sam Chouinard. If we are lucky, his showing in Greensboro is only the beginning of something incredible to come from Torgashev.

## A CHAMPION'S RETURN

We knew all eyes were going to be on Gracie Gold and her return to the U.S. Championships after a two-year absence. What I didn't know exactly was how moved I would be watching her compete — and fight — again. It was far from perfect, but Gold was motivated, resilient and inspired.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON FEVER

The highlight of the rhythm dance for me was absolutely the performance of Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker. Often known for their ethereal free dances, they have continued to embrace their knack for playing to the audience, which they have greatly developed in exhibition programs. It was too bad that their "Saturday Night Fever" rhythm dance took place on a Friday afternoon.

## UNDERDOG

In her second U.S. Championships, Sierra Venetta produced one of the top performances in ladies free skate. After her 12th-place debut last year, Venetta returned to the big dance with improved skating skills, harder technical content and the confidence to finish fifth in the segment.

## CASTING A SPELL

The last time Jason Brown was in Greensboro, he won the U.S. title. Five years later, his competition has changed, but his ability to mesmerize an audience has only gotten stronger. After an uneven fall season, many wondered how he would skate at the U.S. Championships. He answered definitively with one of his best competitions ever, highlighted by a powerful and emotional free skate.



## STUMBLE AND FALL, OR NOT?

One of the coolest and most unexpected pieces of choreography was the choreographic slide of Eva Pate and Logan Bye in their free dance. During the lyric "stumble and fall," Bye literally took a fall — but it was a controlled slide "fall" that elicited gasps from the audience (though not enough respect from the judges).

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





**U.S. FIGURE SKATING**

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**2020 ISU WORLD SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
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**2020 SKATE AMERICA**  
Las Vegas, Nev. Oct. 23-25, 2020

**2021 TOYOTA U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
San Jose, Calif. Jan. 11-17, 2021

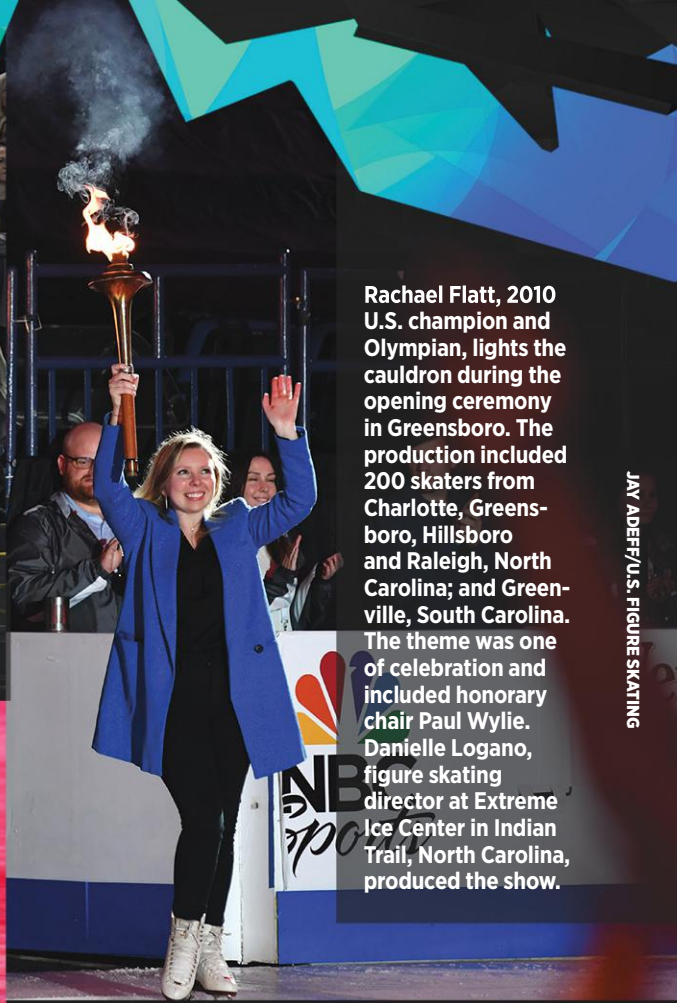
**2022 TOYOTA U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Nashville, Tenn. Jan. 3-9, 2022



2020 TOYOTA U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Second-year pairs team Jessica Calalang and Brian Johnson earned a standing ovation with a breakthrough free skate that propelled them to the silver medal.



Rachael Flatt, 2010 U.S. champion and Olympian, lights the cauldron during the opening ceremony in Greensboro. The production included 200 skaters from Charlotte, Greensboro, Hillsboro and Raleigh, North Carolina; and Greenville, South Carolina. The theme was one of celebration and included honorary chair Paul Wylie. Danielle Logano, figure skating director at Extreme Ice Center in Indian Trail, North Carolina, produced the show.

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Benny the skating dog jumps over a hurdle during the opening ceremony. Benny made his international skating debut in October with a performance at Skate America in Las Vegas.

▽ The 2020 Scholastic Honors Team was introduced during a break in the action. The student-athletes were recognized for their academic and skating achievements, as well as their community service. More than 120 applicants vied for this year's awards. Each Scholastic Honors Team member received a \$3,000 scholarship, a team jacket, a certificate and \$1,000 to donate to a charity of their choice. Pictured back row (l-r) Joseph Kang, Samir Mallya, Akari Nakahara, Hannah Oo; front row (l-r) Gordon Green, Charles Liu and Pooja Kalyan. Not pictured are Jillian Belluck, Ethne Laude and Hannah McDougall. Those earning honorable mentions were Grace Chen, Jeffrey Chen, Anna Nicklaus, Alexandra Popolescu, Jocelyn Song, Carly Wholihan and Katherine Xing.

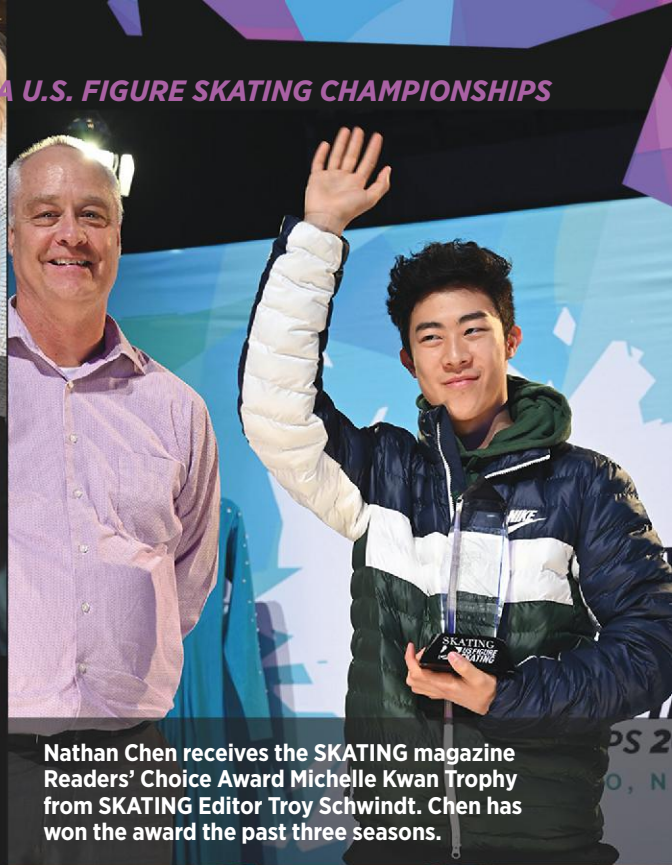


Ice dancers Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue are presented the Meryl Davis and Charlie White Global Excellence Award by White during the Skating Spectacular. Hubbell and Donohue, who earned the honor in its inaugural year in 2019, repeated based on a points system at the U.S. Championships and designated international championship events. Teams must qualify for the Grand Prix Final to be eligible. The bronze sculpture portrays the starting pose of Davis and White's free dance at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games. They sealed the Olympic title with that performance, a first for the United States in ice dance.





U.S. ladies medalists (l-r) Karen Chen, Alysia Liu, Mariah Bell and Bradie Tennell sign autographs and take pictures during an autograph session on the concourse.



Nathan Chen receives the SKATING magazine Readers' Choice Award Michelle Kwan Trophy from SKATING Editor Troy Schwandt. Chen has won the award the past three seasons.

▽ The U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame Class of 2020 was recognized in an on-ice ceremony. Olympic, two-time World and six-time U.S. ice dance champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White headlined the class, with U.S. and World champion Kimmie Meissner, and Olympic and World coach Kathy Casey, who was honored posthumously. (l-r) U.S. Figure Skating President Anne Cammett, White, Davis, Damon Allen (a former student of Casey), Meissner and Nominating Committee Chair Larry Mondschien



U.S. pewter medalist Vincent Zhou signs a skate for a fan during the men's autograph session.



◁ Jason Brown and coach Tracy Wilson celebrate in the kiss and cry after hearing his free skate scores. Brown, who won his only U.S. title to date in Greensboro in 2015, performed two stellar programs en route to the silver medal.

▷ Mariah Bell and Adam Rippon display their raw emotions after receiving Bell's free skate scores. Rippon joined Bell's coaching team this season and has helped the veteran skater reach new heights.







△ Ice dance and pairs medalists greet their fans during an autograph session on the concourse at the Greensboro Coliseum.



△ Brian Boitano takes the lead from the hit TV show “Undercover Boss,” transforming himself into reporter Pete Pepper at the FOFS brunch. With the help of NBC makeup artists, the Olympic champion changed his look with a mustache, hair, glasses, a prosthetic chin and a ballcap. He worked the room in Greensboro, fooling nearly everybody — including pairs champions Alexa and Chris Knierim — as he asked questions about skating and Boitano himself.

U.S. ladies medalists Mariah Bell, Alysa Liu and Bradie Tennell ham it up at the press conference.



U.S. silver medalist Mariah Bell prepares to take the ice at the Skating Spectacular.



Two-time U.S. champion and Olympian Gracie Gold receives a standing ovation.

HANS ROSEMOND PHOTOGRAPHY





Paul Wylie, honorary chairman of the 2020 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships, talks skating at FanFest.



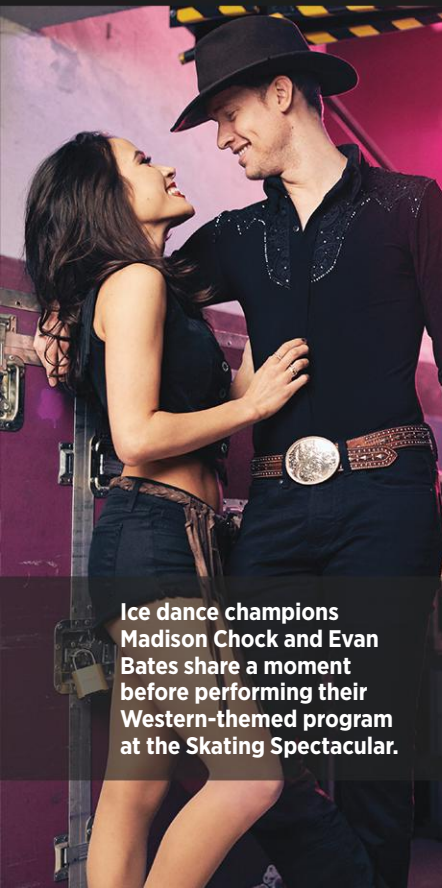
△ NBC skating talent Tara Lipinski and Johnny Weir meet their legions of fans following a telecast.



Skating greats Michael Weiss, Mirai Nagasu, Brooke Castile O'Keefe and Ben Agosto provide expert commentary on the Fan Zone Ice Desk.



△ Jackie Wong of Rocker Skating interviews 2020 U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame inductee Kimmie Meissner at the FOFS brunch.



Ice dance champions Madison Chock and Evan Bates share a moment before performing their Western-themed program at the Skating Spectacular.



▽ Coach Rafael Arutunian paces the corridor outside the warmup area as U.S. men's champion Nathan Chen warms up behind him dribbling a basketball.



▽ Scott Hamilton interviews U.S. silver medalist Mariah Bell at the Friends of Figure Skating brunch.

HANS ROSEMOND PHOTOGRAPHY



# 2020 TOYOTA U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS



- 1) Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko performed their sizzling rhythm dance to "Too Darn Hot" by Cole Porter.
- 2) Karen Chen, the 2017 U.S. champion, showcased her elegance and grace during her free skate.
- 3) Ashley Cain-Gribble and Timothy LeDuc executed a lift in their free skate. The defending U.S. champions finished with the pewter medal and will compete this month at the World Championships.
- 4) Vincent Zhou delivered a powerful free skate en route to the pewter medal. It was Zhou's first event of the season after sitting out the Grand Prix campaign to concentrate on his studies.
- 5) Andrew Torgashev performed a clean short program, which included an opening quad toe loop. The performance was the third-best of the segment.
- 6) Two-time U.S. champion Gracie Gold returned to the U.S. Championships after a two-year absence from the event.

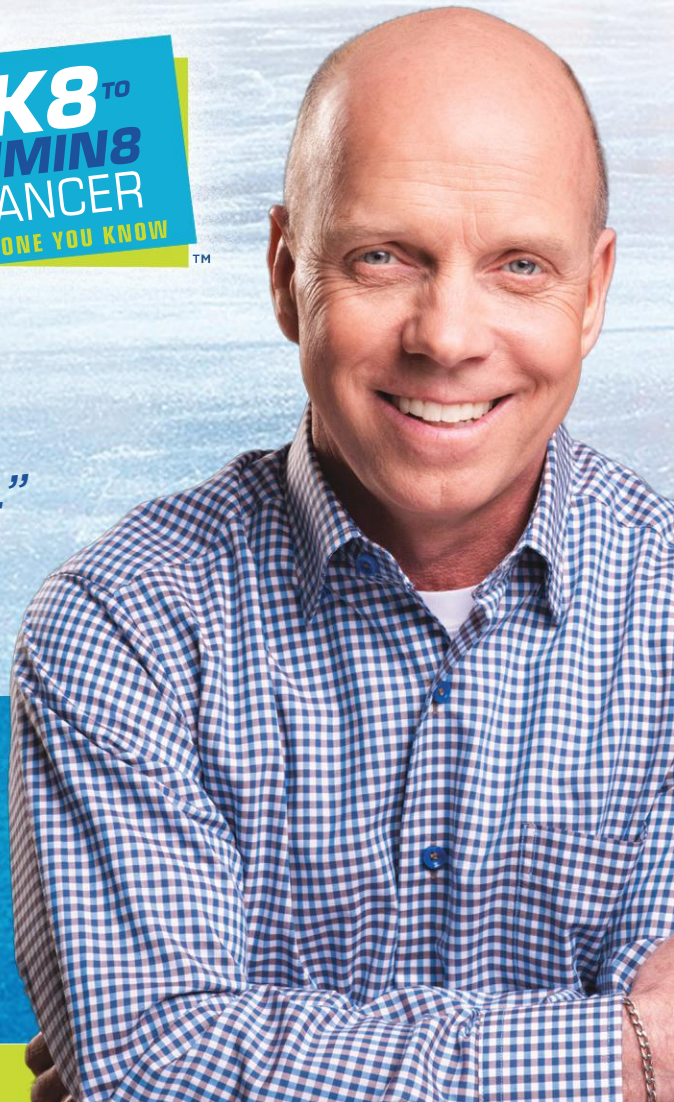






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# JUNIORS GET THE PARTY STARTED

Maxim Naumov's (SC of Boston) two triple Axels, the creative lifts of pairs skaters Kate Finster (Northern Kentucky SC) and Balazs Nagy (Broadmoor SC), the speed and elegance of ice dancers Avonley Nguyen and Vadym Kolesnik (SC of New York), and the exquisite spins of Lindsay Thorngren (Ice House of New Jersey FSC) highlighted the many outstanding performances turned in by the juniors at the Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

These champions and the rest of the

junior division skaters helped create a buzz at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex with their technical prowess and artistic flair. Their dynamic performances set the stage for their championship-level counterparts, who carried that early momentum to the final performance on Sunday afternoon.

Justin Dillon, director of high performance at U.S. Figure Skating, praised the performances of all the athletes in all four disciplines.

"First and second from intermediate (ladies) last year were first and second in junior today in the same order," Dillon said. "Overall, what was so incredible is that we had 18 ladies in the event and I thought it was exceptional, from the first skater in the first warmup to the last skater at the end of the event. I think it was exciting to see these novices competing with the juniors."

Under the new competition structure, the top two novice ladies and men's skat-

ers from each of the three sectional finals competed in the junior ranks in Greensboro before attending the inaugural National High Performance Development Team Camp in Indian Trail, North Carolina.

The men, Dillon said, thrived in performing on the big stage in front an enthusiastic audience.

"I think it was such a huge inspiration, because at this age what's important is that they are motivated and inspired, and I think they experienced this in Greensboro."

Dillon called the junior pairs event one of the best he's watched in many years for overall quality.

"The dance event was also super strong," he said. "It's rare that you can watch something at 10:30 at night and be riveted to how the end results are going to unfold. Each of those junior teams put out great performances. You can go eight or nine deep, that's how strong it was."

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



LADIES: (l-r) Isabeau Levito, Lindsay Thorngren, Calista Choi, Isabelle Inthisone



MEN: (l-r) Eric Sjoberg, Maxim Naumov, Liam Kapeikis, Lucas Altieri



PAIRS: (l-r) Anastasiia Smirnova/Danil Silanytsia, Kate Finster/Balazs Nagy, Winter Deardorff/Mikhail Johnson, Cate Fleming/Jedidiah Isbell



ICE DANCE: (l-r) Katarina Wolfkostin/Jeffrey Chen, Avonley Nguyen/Vadym Kolesnik, Oona Brown/Gage Brown, Molly Cesanek/Yehor Yehorov



# QUIET STORM

*Thorngren repeats as champion*

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Lindsay Thorngren (Ice House of New Jersey FSC) is a skater of few words, but her talent on the ice speaks volumes. The athlete from White Plains, New York, won her second consecutive U.S. title (she won the intermediate title in 2019) with a fine balance of soaring triple jumps, dizzying spins and poised footwork.

Performing to “Lovers” by Jackie Evancho, Thorngren climbed from second place after the short program to win the title with an event-best free skate. The 2019 U.S. intermediate champion edged Isabeau Levito (SC of Southern New Jersey) for the second consecutive year, 183.76-179.47.

Calista Choi (Skokie Valley SC), the 2019 U.S. novice champion and short program leader, earned the bronze medal with 177.05 points, while her rinkmate Isabelle Inthisonne (DuPage FSC) secured the pewter medal with a score of 165.34.

“One thing Lindsay does really well — her layback spin and her upright straight leg (spin) are phenomenal,” said Justin Dillon, director of high performance development at U.S. Figure Skating. “The speed she has on those spins acquire her many points in GOE [grades of

execution] because they are so fast.

“She has a deliberate approach. I think she’s steady and calm and she attacks appropriately; she’s always kind of in her zone.”

Thorngren’s score was nearly 40 points higher than it was at last year’s U.S. Championships. After the competition, she traveled to Indian Trail, North Carolina, and earned a spot on the World Junior Team at U.S. Figure Skating’s selection competition.

Her coach, seven-time Austrian champion Julia Lautowa, said her skater’s performance in Greensboro wasn’t a surprise. She’s coached Thorngren since she was 6 years old.

“She continues to show she’s a consistent skater and you can rely on her,” Lautowa said. “She performs well in competition. It’s her passion. Every time she competes she does better than she did in practice. That’s her biggest strength.”

In her free skate, Thorngren landed seven triple jumps — three in combination — and earned Level 4s for her spins and footwork.

“I don’t know if it’s sunk in yet,” Thorngren, an eighth grader, said minutes after winning. “It means a lot because it definitely gives me a confidence boost.”

Levito, the 2019 U.S. intermediate silver medalist and 2018 U.S. juvenile champion, didn’t miss a beat when the wrong music started to play for her free skate to “Malaguena” by 101 Strings Orchestra. She let the officials know and, like a seasoned pro, took her starting pose again.

Unflappable, the diminutive dynamo delivered an energetic program that was tech-

nically sound and a blast for fans to watch.

“She did so much work to improve last year and the year before,” one of her coaches, Vyacheslav Kuznetsov, said. “She’s taken small steps and I’m proud of her.”

Like the champion, Levito landed seven triple jumps and received Level 4s for her spins and footwork.

Levito said she’s focused on getting a quad next year in time for her possible Junior Grand Prix events. She wants to be ready to compete against a strong Russian contingent.

“They are on the podium all the time,” she said of the Russian ladies. “They work hard and they deserve it. I want to create more nationalities on the podium.”

Choi also turned in a strong free skate, to “Nessun Dorma” by Giacomo Puccini, with a couple of errors on her jumps.

“I fought through the program,” Choi said. “I didn’t get the first triple-triple off, but I am proud that I was still able to put my three-jump combo somewhere else and get all of my combos in, and that was great. I felt emotional at the end of my performance, thinking, ‘Oh this is it, I have to bring it,’ and I think I did. I’m proud of myself.”

One of her coaches, Jeremy Allen, said Choi shows great potential.

“She really is in the moment, she really shows off her artistry and putting the jumps with it,” Allen said. “Not bad today — still lots of work to do, as always. I think she’s excited to keep on progressing and moving forward.”

Inthisonne also demonstrated a strong skill set in Greensboro.

Lindsay Thorngren



isabeau Levito



Calista Choi





## TRIPLE THREAT

### Naumov fights to the top

BY TAYLOR DEAN

When Maxim Naumov (SC of Boston) was announced as the 2020 U.S. junior champion, the 18-year-old took pride in living up to his family's winning tradition.

"I'm super excited with how I performed today," he said. "I was hoping to step up my game. It feels amazing."

Son of 1994 World pairs champions Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov, Maxim grew up learning from some of the best. But the separation between coach and parent is one the family continues to define.

"It's a very fine line, because you want to talk to your dad when you're at home and you want to talk to your coach when you're at the rink, and they flip sometimes," he said. "It's tough, but we figured it out and we've been doing a good job lately."

After sitting out the 2018–19 season with an ankle injury, Naumov entered the 2020 U.S. Championships with no expectations. His main objective: attack three planned triple Axels. With one in the short program and two in the free skate (one in combination), the 2018 U.S. junior bronze medalist was looking to fight.

Naumov opened his short program by landing the difficult jump, although it required a fight.

For the free skate, he wanted better. Skating to the Queen classic "Who

Wants to Live Forever" performed by the Tenors, Naumov effortlessly glided into his first jump: a triple Axel-double toe loop combination. The audience cheered as he cleanly landed it. Seconds later, he nailed his final triple Axel.

"It's been on and off, and I knew I had to put it in today," he said. "When the time came, I got the job done."

While it wasn't a perfect free skate, the audience could feel the young skater's emotion as he fist-pumped at the end and stepped off the ice to hug his father.

"This is what I've been training for ... every day nonstop, just going after everything," he said.

Naumov earned 136.17 points in his free skate to finish second in the segment: his short program score (70.75) kept him on top with a final tally of 206.92.

The winner of the free skate, Eric Sjoberg (Los Angeles FSC), claimed the silver medal with 202.38 points, a personal best.

The Maryland native, who trains in California, grew up playing a variety of sports. When he began practicing his waltz jumps during hockey games, the now 18-year-old knew it was time to focus on figure skating.

Years later, Sjoberg is captivating crowds with his graceful skating. After a sixth-place finish in the short program, Sjoberg entered the free skate with the goal of putting everything he could out on the ice.

Performing to "Winter in Buenos Aires" by Astor Piazzolla, the 2017 U.S. junior pewter medalist opened with a double Axel and landed seven triple jumps. Achieving all positive grades of execution and Level 4 on all three spins, Sjoberg earned 139.41 points, the event's highest segment score by three

points.

"I've been working diligently on skating skill exercises, jump exercises, everything that makes the program better," he said.

Bronze medalist Liam Kapeikis (Wenatchee FSC) was fresh off a trip to Switzerland for the Winter Youth Olympic Games (where he placed 10th) when he arrived to compete at the 2020 U.S. Championships.

"Switzerland was amazing," he said. "It was probably one of the best experiences I ever had — not even including the skating part of it. It was a good learning experience toward this competition."

In his free skate set to music from *Les Misérables*, the young skater completed two Level 4 elements to score 121.03 points and 189.15 overall.

"My skate didn't quite start out how I would've hoped, but I was able to fight through that," he said. "I used a lot of my past experiences to help myself move on after some mistakes in the beginning, to be able to finish a strong program."

Another junior man from a family of skaters and parents as coaches, Kapeikis said his family inspires him to skate better.

"It really motivated me at the beginning of my skating career when I was very young to have my two older sisters skating," Kapeikis said. "In my head when I was little, they were the best. I used them as motivation to build my skating career up."

Lucas Altieri (Pines FSC) scored 187.94 to take the pewter medal. Also skating to *Les Misérables*, Altieri achieved Level 4 on all his spins and landed seven triple jumps in his free skate. He finished third in the segment.

Maxim Naumov



Eric Sjoberg



Liam Kapeikis





# 'POWER AND SPEED'

*Finster and Nagy provide glimpse of the future*

BY **MARISSA PEDERSON**

In the eyes of five-time U.S. pairs champion Kyoko Ina, Kate Finster (Northern Kentucky SC) and Balazs Nagy (Broadmoor SC) possess qualities that could propel them to the top.

"They are a really good-looking team," Ina, a World medalist and two-time Olympian, said. "They cover the ice nicely, so they've got the power and the speed going for them. Right now, their elements are so powerful."

As a brand-new team last season at the U.S. Championships in Detroit, Finster and Nagy garnered the junior silver medal. They arrived in Greensboro confident and ready to take that next step. Take it they did: Placing first in the short program and second in the free skate, they amassed 169.37 points to win gold.

"I'm definitely a lot less nervous this year," Nagy said. "Last year was my first season of pairs and that was a huge learning curve. I'm now more comfortable with the events, the skating and just the whole aspect of it."

Building confidence in each other has been a theme.

"Our free skate is about our journey; it's

called 'To Build a Home,' and instead of a home, we're working to build trust," Finster said.

That trust has allowed them to push the boundaries in their programs, adding difficult lift entries and unique air positions under the guidance of coach Dalilah Sappenfield, who trains her teams in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"I feel like last year our lifts were a bit more basic and had to change," Nagy said. "We have more of a unique position in our second lift, in the press-to-star [position]. We wanted something that was more original, so we worked a lot more off-ice to get this lift and perfect it."

Finster and Nagy will move up the ranks next season, and Ina thinks they will do just fine.

"As seniors next year, there won't be expectations, so hopefully they'll carry the momentum of being champions as juniors," she said.

Trust was also important for Anastasiia Smirnova (Yarmouth Ice Club) and Danil Siianytsia (All Year FSC). Despite growing up in the same town in Ukraine and skating at the same rink, the two had never met until Siianytsia went searching for a partner.

"With the connection they already shared, her family thought it was a good idea to send her [to the U.S.]," said coach Trudy Oltmanns, who trains the team in Shakopee, Minnesota.

After the move, Siianytsia showed Smirnova the ropes of living in a new coun-

try. In 2019, the duo won the novice bronze medal and decided to move up to juniors despite a season shortened by injury..

To get competition-ready, Smirnova and Siianytsia used the age-old strategy of practicing how your play.

"We were trying to mentally prepare for it," Siianytsia said. "We did all of the elements like we were in the competition and our run-throughs were like competition. Our mindset was to practice the way we want to compete."

It worked: Smirnova and Siianytsia secured the silver medal with 163.04 and won the free skate with 108.48 points.

Also training under Sappenfield, Winter Deardorff (Northern Kentucky FSC) and Mikhail Johnson (Broadmoor SC) captured bronze with 149.47 points.

"Even though I competed the last two years, there were still a lot of firsts for me because we're a mirror team," Deardorff said. "It was the first time doing the death spiral his way. It was the first time doing the spins his way. This was a big thing for us this week."

Despite navigating through unknown waters in his first U.S. Championships, Johnson smiled as he explained why pairs is the perfect sport to push yourself.

"In pairs what I like is that there is somebody with you, and you have somebody to balance out the nervousness," he said.

Fresh off the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne, Switzerland, Cate Fleming and Jedidiah Isbell (SC of Boston) picked up the pewter medal with 131.58 points.

Kate Finster/Balazs Nagy



Anastasiia Smirnova/Danil Siianytsia



Winter Deardorff/Mikhail Johnson





## ART ON ICE

*Nguyen and Kolesnik  
realize their dream of gold*

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

Sometimes, a program is so mesmerizing, a few minutes feel like a few seconds.

When Avonley Nguyen and Vadym Kolesnik (SC of New York) took the ice for their free dance to Rachmaninoff's "Concerto No. 2," their movements — from a superb opening stationary lift through to an elegant closing pose — flew by in a flash. All that remained was an indelible vision of moving art.

The judges agreed, awarding the skaters top marks for all eight of their elements, and the Novi, Michigan, team amassed 184.38 points to win the U.S. title that narrowly eluded them last season.

"It's so important to us, because it's a goal we've been working toward the past few years," Nguyen said. "It was a huge dream I had every night when I closed my eyes. I could just see us on the top of the podium."

"We set our goals a few years ago when we just started skating together," Kolesnik said. "Our main, main goal was to win nationals, and then after that go higher and higher. We were close last year, and we did it this year."

Nguyen, a Cleveland native, and Kolesnik, who was born in Kharkiv, Ukraine, were paired up by coach Igor Shpilband in 2016. They share an intense work ethic and

call themselves "all business" on the ice.

"They are very driven, both of them," Shpilband said. "They dream skating, they live skating, they breathe skating. They are dedicated kids."

To hear Kolesnik tell it, ice dance is his first and only passion.

"Every single day I'm more and more about figure skating," he said. "Nothing brings me as much joy. I [devote] all my life to it, waking up every day at 6 a.m., going to skate until 5 p.m. It's just all about figure skating for me."

"When you train at this level, and for me I also have school, you really don't have much time free for anything else," Nguyen, a high school junior, said. "With the little free time we have, we try to relax as much as we can."

Now, the young couple's sights are set on gold this month at the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2020 in Tallinn, Estonia. They placed fourth at the event last season.

No less an authority than Charlie White, the 2014 Olympic ice dance champion (with Meryl Davis), likes their chances.

"I've worked with them a couple of times and having watched them compete, there are some intangible qualities that set them apart," White said. "For them it reads as a passion, a commitment to movement, and you get a sense of that watching them."

Katarina Wolfkostin and Jeffrey Chen (Peninsula SC), who train alongside Nguyen and Kolesnik in Novi, arrived fresh off winning a bronze medal at the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Here, they won the silver medal with 161.39 points — an outstanding result, especially considering they have skated together for less than a year.

The team's free dance, set to a romantic medley including the pop standard "How Will I Know," was expressive and elegant, and the skaters gained impressive levels for their elements.

"We skated clean, it went smooth," Wolfkostin said. "We got most of our levels. We are always improving."

"It was a quick turnaround," said Chen, the younger brother of 2017 U.S. champion Karen Chen. "We were just in Switzerland and we were two days home and now we're here."

Siblings Oona Brown and Gage Brown (SC of New York), fourth in juniors last season, won the bronze medal with 160.54 points.

The Browns' free dance, to "Bloodstream" by Tokio Myers and "Air" by Jan Werner was marked by speed, power and deep edges.

"I felt everything was nice and strong, the best this season," Oona said.

"We want to make everyone in the crowd feel our energy," Gage added. "That's what we've been working on all season, and I feel like we've gotten a lot better at it."

It was a disappointing free dance for Molly Cesanek (Washington FSC) and Yehor Yehorov (Peninsula SC). Second after the rhythm dance, the couple dropped to fourth place overall after their final element, a choreographed step sequence, was ruled invalid. They finished with 159.09 points.

Avonley Nguyen/Vadym Kolesnik



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Katarina Wolfkostin/Jeffrey Chen



Oona Brown/Gage Brown







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# SWEET CAROLINA

INAUGURAL NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CAMP A BIG SUCCESS

U.S. FIGURE SKATING  
HIGH PERFORMANCE  
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CAMP 2020



Members of the National Development Team cheer for the championship-level skaters.

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Many of the top developmental-level skaters in the land took a big step toward competing as juniors and seniors at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships by showcasing their talents at the inaugural National High Performance Development Team Camp in Indian Trail, North Carolina.

The best juvenile, intermediate and novice skaters took part in the showcase at Extreme Ice Center, Jan. 26–29. The purpose of the camp was to accelerate the progress of the athletes in a camp setting, with the top coaches and officials in the country providing their expertise and assessment.

Athletes qualified for the camp instead of a berth at the U.S. Championships through a new qualifying structure that culminated at three U.S. Sectional Singles Finals, a U.S. Pairs Final and a U.S. Ice Dance Final in November.

“This training camp benefits developing athletes rather than them doing just another competition,” said Justin Dillon, U.S. Figure Skating’s high performance development director. “I spent many years coaching kids at this level and witnessed many talented, young skaters quit the sport because of results at high-pressure competitions. This camp gives the High Performance Department the opportunity to work with international officials as they get to personally know these athletes and make sure they, their parents and coaches get the right tools and support to keep aspiring for success at the international level.”

More than 180 athletes took part in the camp, which featured a wide array of on- and off-ice classes designed to challenge the athletes in a peer-group setting. Their performances help U.S. Figure Skating assess their competitive readiness and assign them to the appropriate international competitions and ISU seminars.

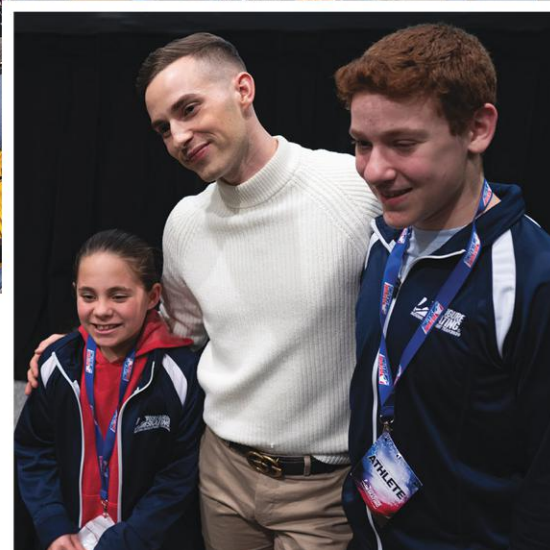
The athletes were treated to a big send-off following the men’s free skate at the U.S. Championships in Greensboro, with Olympian Adam Rippon delivering an inspiring keynote address.

“The camp was a huge win for everyone,” said Kelly Vogtner, senior director of special projects at U.S. Figure Skating. “The athletes performed well and developed a great camaraderie with each other, and the coaches and officials shared their expertise and enthusiasm throughout the camp. We’ll spend the next few weeks assessing the athletes and receiving feedback on how to make next year’s camp even better.”

## ATHLETES ENJOY CAMARADERIE, VARIETY AT CAMP

The atmosphere inside the Extreme Ice Center was high energy and festive. Skaters were transported 90 miles south on Interstate 85 from Greensboro to Indian Trail on Jan. 26 for the elite camp.

Skaters worked with some of the sport’s top coaches on their skating skills, jumps, edges and spins, and with renowned specialty



Olympian Adam Rippon offers words of wisdom and inspiration at the National Development Team Camp sendoff.

coaches and professionals on their presentation skills. Skaters also attended classes with topics ranging from sports science to judging to SafeSport and athlete safety.

When they weren’t on the ice or in class, skaters built camaraderie as new friendships were forged. Skaters were divided into “squads” and were provided red jerseys that had their names and a number on the back to help coaches and faculty identify them. Singles skaters were grouped by age, while pairs and ice dancers were grouped by level.

Novice-level skater Samir Mallya got a lot out of the camp, he said.

“I’ve met a lot of my teammates and competitors here, and I know that’s going to elevate us as we continue to compete together at the higher levels,” Mallya said. “I think having all the coaches and faculty here in one place is great because you get to sample different techniques and work with a bunch of people; and the judges are here, too, so that’s good motivation as well.”

Mallya said one of his favorite classes was presented by Randi Strong from the





Several skaters show their patriotism and enthusiasm at the selfie wall.

popular FOX TV show “So You Think You Can Dance.”

“She helped us work on our upper body mostly; it helps a lot for the jumps and on-ice presence,” he said.

Tyler VanWagner, an intermediate-level pairs skater with brother, Patrick, said the camp ran smoothly and she liked the variety offered.

“I like how they are touching on subjects like SafeSport and I like how they are not pushing us,” VanWagner said. “They are saying, ‘We are not going to injure you, take your time, do what you can do so we can help you.’”

VanWagner, 14, said skating has become a core part of her life.

“I hope to progress here and take that home with me,” she said.

## PARENTS LEARN ABOUT JUMPS FROM CHAMP

Two-time U.S. champion Alysa Liu’s unbridled enthusiasm was on full display at the camp where the 14-year-old demonstrated an array of jumps in front of about 80 parents, who took their turn attempting to mirror her explosive takeoffs and soft landings, while being educated about what their skaters practice each day at home. She also shared her thoughts on how parents can best

support their skaters.

Liu’s presentation was one of the big takeaways for parents, who got to sample a variety of classes meant to educate and inform them about competitive skating.

“I’m glad they brought her [Liu] in to give her perspective, because we don’t hear the kids’ perspective often enough,” said Serita Mallya, whose son, Samir, was a camp participant. “We each know our kid and we know what we tell our kid and what our kid tells us, but to hear it from somebody who is in their shoes and who is so young kind of underscores the parents’ role to be supportive, highlight the positive and not bring the child down in the slightest, because they are hard on themselves. The world is hard on them. That really resonated with me.”

Other presentations for the parents included:

- 2010 U.S. champion and Olympian Rachael Flatt discussing the importance of balancing life and skating
- Understanding judging and the IJS
- Sports psychology
- SafeSport and athlete safety
- A roundtable discussion with parents and U.S. Figure Skating staff

Parents also got to experience the U.S. Championships with their skaters in Greensboro.

Linda Strommer’s son, Beck, qualified for the National Development Team as an intermediate-level skater. The 14-year-old, who trains in Denver, got a late start and was at the preliminary level just two years ago.

“He’s so developmental,” Strommer said. “He has some great jumps but the consistency [isn’t there yet] and he doesn’t have much mileage. We are building on that every year. I’m glad he got to see what nationals is all about before he showed up here and had to compete. I’m thrilled Beck is in this inaugural year of this program, and that he gets to build some more camaraderie with his competitors.

“He was so pumped up this morning. He’s almost 15 and he’s grown a lot and people think he’s older than his age, but he’s still a kid. He said, ‘I feel like Nemo this morning: “First day of school! First day of school!”’”

## COACHES, OTHER PROFESSIONALS ‘PLANTING SEEDS’

Skyler Rodgers remembers when he was a young skater climbing the competitive ladder. Today, he helps young people and adults have fun and get fit at his SkyBeat Dance Studio in Miami.

Rodgers was one of many specialty pro-

Ice dancers at the camp put on an evening show choreographed by Douglas Webster.



PHOTO BY SARAH ARNOLD



professionals and coaches working with skaters at the National Development Camp.

"It's fun for me to be on this side and to encourage them to have fun, let loose, bend their knees, because so much of their training is so specific and hard and regimented, which it should be," Rodgers said. "But also a great artist, a great performer can be expressive and have fun. And that's what my class is about, so it's just really a lot of joy to hopefully inspire them to go further and be a little uncomfortable and grow as artists."

Rodgers leads by example, demonstrating movement and fluidity in front of the class.

"There are all types of learning," he said. "Some people learn audibly and a lot of it is visual, so the more I can express myself and they can see what is possible, because sometimes just seeing what is possible can make them feel more comfortable."

"It's like that Nelson Mandela speech, where he talks about letting your light shine and in that way you give people permission to let their light shine as well — so something like that but on a smaller scale. ... The whole camp and my session are all about planting seeds and encouraging them to blossom."

Olympic and World coach Christy Krall loved seeing the enthusiasm from the athletes. Krall was on the ice teaching proper jump technique.

"They are having a wonderful time here," Krall said. "And once you create this wonderful amalgamation of people and the respect for one another and then they are



**Skylar Rodgers conducts a movement class. Rodgers, a former skater, teaches young athletes to let themselves be uncomfortable and "let loose."**

cheering each other on, it just goes on for the rest of their lives. It's a great opportunity to build Team USA.

"I think this is a great opportunity for them to move forward with a lot of different dimensions of their skating. It's 2020. We call it the 'vision year' and they can get a whole new vision of who they are, what they can do, break through some personal challenges they've had. I also love the interaction of these amazing coaches. You have a World and Olympic standard faculty, not only on the ice but off the ice judging."

Amanda Dobbs, a Detroit-area coach who competed four times as a senior at the U.S. Championships (2008–11), said she has enjoyed making new connections as a coach and watching her student, Lake Liao, also make those connections with other athletes who are on the same competitive pathway.

"It's been good to see him branch out and learn — building that camaraderie just so that he feels a little bit more understood," Dobbs said. "Not everybody gets to this point, so for him to be surrounded by other

athletes going through the same training cycle with the same goals is cool."

The jump consistency session, she said, was what she was looking forward to most, as well as having her student learn the mental side of the sport. Also, the opportunity for parents to have a better understanding of what their athlete is going through helps her as a coach.

Sam Auxier, an official at the camp, was encouraged seeing the positive interaction of the athletes.

"There's almost more value in that the kids are creating relationships, making new friends, but also the competitive spirit between them," Auxier said. "They push themselves more so than even a coach pushes them. It's a great atmosphere; it's competitive but friendly. I think there will be a lot of long-term benefits for the skaters and our association."

"They are all watching each other pretty carefully. They all know the officials are present, so that's a little extra motivation to do their best."

**Two-time U.S. ladies champion Alysa Liu demonstrates a clean landing in front of more than 80 parents at the camp. Liu described each jump, which were then attempted by the group of enthusiastic parents.**





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# BEHIND THE SCENES

## Athlete safety at the forefront in Greensboro

### BARB REICHERT, U.S. FIGURE SKATING

While fans and NBC audiences focused on the athletes on the ice at the 2020 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships, there was a little-known laser focus on the athletes behind the scenes, too.

U.S. Figure Skating's athlete safety team performed an internal audit of the event in Greensboro, North Carolina, to ensure SafeSport policies and procedures were being implemented correctly.

Unknown to those outside of the headquarters staff, John Anderson, the senior director of U.S. Figure Skating's SafeSport program, and Shelbi Meyer, manager of SafeSport outreach and education, spent the week observing interactions inside the cavernous Greensboro Arena and practice ice.

Anderson, who has led U.S. Figure Skating's SafeSport program since 2017, is an attorney with a passion for athlete safety. As the father of two elite female soccer players, he was the volunteer president of a youth soccer club with nearly 10,000 members.

"That's a lot of kids, and so, naturally, you run across a lot of issues," Anderson told the *Greensboro News & Record*. "Some of those are the issues [U.S. Figure Skating] faces today. By being in that role, I started to think a lot about athlete protection."

Meyer, who has a professional background in child welfare and victim advocacy, worked for USA Triathlon's SafeSport program before taking her role at U.S. Figure Skating.

"John and I are by design not invested with relationships inside the sport," Meyer said. "We both enjoyed watching figure skating on TV and during the Olympics, but we didn't have any existing relationships, which makes us non-conflicted observers."

While at the U.S. Championships, Anderson and Meyer spoke with countless volunteers, security officers, event staff and those with access to athletes.

"We walked every inch of that venue multiple times trying to find deficiencies," Anderson said. "Overall, I was really pleased. We do a good job of managing access, especially in the areas where athletes have access. That was really good to see onsite."

As part of the internal audit, the team monitored medical treatment and massage rooms, locker rooms, practice ice and warmup areas to ensure that two-deep leadership (i.e., two adults with a minor athlete) is always in place and that policies are being upheld.

"It was important for us as non-figure skating people to visit a national championship to see how our events team runs things," Meyer said. "It's always important to have a fresh set of eyes to see how policies are really implemented."

Anderson highlighted the importance of proper accreditation and a strict adherence that restricts access to athletes.

"Security and volunteers did their jobs well to ensure only those with the proper credential were allowed in areas near athletes," he said. "We witnessed people being stopped and turned away if their credential did not allow them in a specified area, so we saw the system work in real time."

Anderson credited a locker room monitor for her efforts to stop a coach trying to enter the men's locker room.

"She did her job," he said. "And when the coach refused to listen, she promptly got a security guard."

That overall awareness permeated through the event, Meyer said.

"My biggest takeaway was the amount of work that our [U.S. Figure Skating] staff, volunteers and LOC staff put into events like this," she said. "I think that's something that oftentimes gets overlooked. There's a lot of hard work that goes in behind the scenes to make sure our athletes are safe and comfortable throughout the entire event

experience."

Anderson agreed.

"It was really eye-opening for us to meet with our staff, who walked us through the event and each person's role before introducing us to volunteers so that we could understand all the different touch points and work that goes into it. Our headquarters staff is really dedicated to their jobs. It's priceless."

And while the team was pleased with the overall audit, Anderson and Meyer continue to seek better ways to ensure athlete safety.

"There are always ways that we can improve," Meyer said. "We listened to the volunteers, like the locker-room monitors, and will explore their suggestions. They play an important role and we want to have the best volunteers in those roles. Our athletes deserve that."

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# SKATING

## KIDS ZONE

PUZZLES BY  
TAYLOR DEAN

Answers on page 64

### GO FIGURE

BY GENE BROWNING



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

### 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!

BOITANO  
CAMP  
CHOCK AND BATES  
FANFEST  
GOLD  
MARIAH BELL  
MONTREAL  
QUAD  
TARHEEL  
WORLDS

### KIDS SPOTLIGHT

#### ELIN DANIELSON

**Age:** 7

**Hometown:**

Birmingham, Michigan

**Club:** Detroit SC

**Level:** Pre-preliminary freestyle, juvenile moves in the field

**Coaches:** Rachel Bauld Lee, Paul Bellantuono, Yuka Sato

**How I got started:** I went to a "Boot Scoot" for a school field trip when I was in kindergarten and I loved it so much my mom took me the next day to get my own skates. I started Learn to Skate a week later and have been skating ever since.

**Favorite moves:** Axel,

falling leaf, twizzles, layback spin, spin combinations

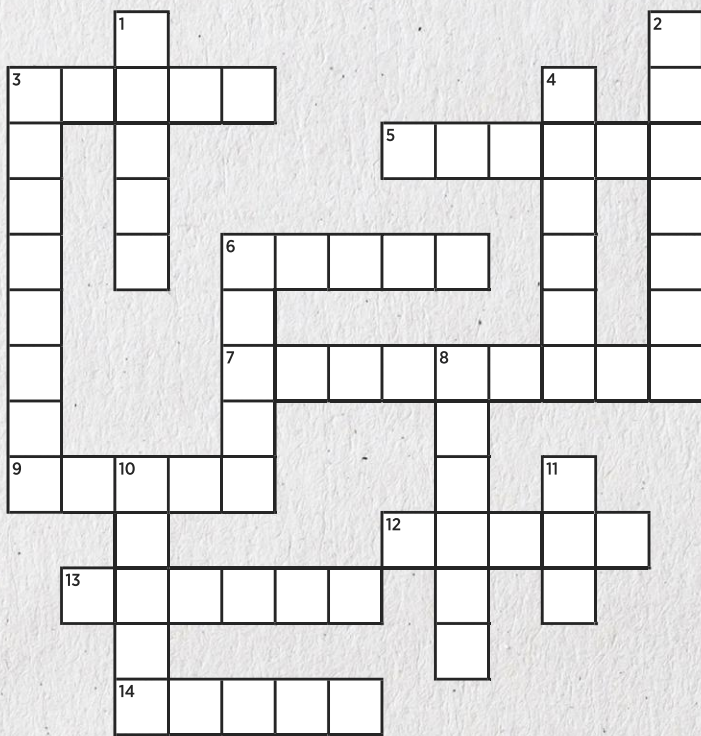
**Favorite skaters:** Bradie Tennell, Alysa Liu, Mariah Bell, Alissa Czisny, Jeremy Abbott

**Goals:** To become a U.S. Figure Skating triple gold medalist in freestyle, moves in the field and dance and be the absolute best figure skater I can be.

**Hobbies:** Family vacations, playing with my friends and brother, dancing and reading







- 4 Mariah Bell delivered a stunning free skate to claim the \_\_\_\_\_ medal at the 2020 U.S. Championships.
- 6 Nathan Chen will seek to win his third World \_\_\_\_\_ this month in Montreal.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Chen tied Brian Boitano's four consecutive U.S. titles with another sterling performance in North Carolina.
- 10 U.S. junior men's champion Maxim Naumov landed two triple \_\_\_\_\_ in his free skate.
- 11 Alysa \_\_\_\_\_ attempted the first quad in ladies competition at the 2020 U.S. Championships.
- 6 Bradie Tennell finished \_\_\_\_\_ at the U.S. Championships. She won gold and silver the previous two seasons.
- 7 Last season's intermediate champion, Lindsay \_\_\_\_\_ captured the 2020 U.S. junior title.
- 9 Ice dancer Madison Chock portrays a \_\_\_\_\_ in her and partner Evan Bates' exotic free dance to an Egyptian theme.
- 12 The person in charge of a committee or group is often referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13 Ice dancers Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue have won a total of nine U.S. Championships \_\_\_\_\_ since 2012.

**ACROSS**

- 3 The 2020 Four Continents Championships were held last month in Seoul, South \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 The \_\_\_\_\_ division kicked off the U.S. Championships in Greensboro.
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ Hamilton spoke to the National Development Team and served as the guest speaker at the Friends of Figure Skating brunch.

**DOWN**

- 1 Jason \_\_\_\_\_ earned the silver medal in Greensboro. He secured gold there in 2015.
- 2 Madison Hubbell portrayed the iconic \_\_\_\_\_ Monroe in her rhythm dance with partner Zachary Donohue.
- 3 Alexa and Chris-won in Greensboro for a second time. The \_\_\_\_\_ have now won three U.S. titles.

If you would like to be featured in the KIDS Spotlight, email your information to [tdean@usfigureskating.org](mailto:tdean@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**

**HALAINA MASON**

**Age:** 11  
**Hometown:** Syracuse, New York  
**Club:** Buffalo SC  
**Level:** Juvenile  
**Coaches:** Kirk Wyse, Lenel VanDenburg, Suzzane Bauth, Bianka Szijgyaryo  
**How I got started:** I started skating when I was 4 years old because I got tired of sitting in the stands watching my older sister, Montana, skate.

**Favorite moves:** Double flip, double toe loop, flying sit spin, spirals  
**Favorite skaters:** Adam Rippon, Ashley Wagner, Alina Zagitova, Jason Brown  
**Goals:** To place at North Atlantic Regionals  
**Hobbies:** Dancing, working with horses, theater





# SMALL GESTURE, BIG IMPACT

*A retrospective on the global #adultsskatetoo movement*

BY AVIVA M. CANTOR

You heard it on Facebook. It's printed on your T-shirt. You're following the hashtag on Instagram. It's a bumper sticker on your car.

It went viral.

For skaters worldwide, "Adults Skate Too" has made an ever-increasing impact, popping up on social media, in Etsy shops and even on a poster in the front row of the 2019 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Detroit.

How did this happen? Just ask 12-time U.S. Adult Championships competitor Lori Fussell, who serves as the national vice chair for adult skating on the Competitions Committee. But the phenomenon started long before she led the pack.

Fussell is a volunteer pilot and a retired environmental engineer.

"I attended the 2006 EAA AirVenture Oshkosh air show and ran across a 'Girls Fly Too' vendor booth," Fussell said. "According to Women in Aviation International, female pilots represent only 6 percent of the total pilot population. I loved the slogan and purchased multiple items. As adult skaters are also a significant minority in the skating population, I was inspired to modify the slogan to promote my other love: figure skating."

It started with tossies (mementos thrown onto the ice).

"The first tossies were hand-painted CD cases gifted to adult competitors at the Jackson Hole Invitational in March 2007," Fussell said. "I knew I'd make more tossies, but at the time, I had no idea of what was to come."

She brought more CD cases to the 2007 U.S. Adult Championships the following month. It became her annual tradition. There were hand clappers, rainbow wristbands, pins, lanyards, bookmarks and more.

"There are many levels to its meaning and it's somewhat open to interpretation," Fussell said. "But the slogan was originally about expressing recognition, support and friendship. It's not uncommon for there to be only one adult skater at a given rink. Day after day, practicing with children requires a certain amount of determination. The



Lori Fussell, Christy Hays, Burton Powley and Dottie Janson wear Adults Skate Too bracelet tossies at the 2017 Adult Championships. Right, Original Adults Skate Too CD case from 2007.



knowledge that you're not alone and that you can share your joy, on-ice passion, work ethic and common struggles with other adult skaters is inspiring," she said.

To reach a bigger audience, Fussell created a YouTube video in January 2011 titled "Adult Skaters Answer the Question: What's So Great About Figure Skating?" with voiceover by past Adult Skating Committee Chair Lexi Rohner. At its conclusion, "Adults Skate Too" was displayed, marking the first time it appeared digitally.

Next: the hashtag.

In 2016, Fussell co-chaired the Midwestern Adult Sectional Championships with Lisa Landon. They used the hashtag for their social media updates about the competition, and the response inspired the launch of a weekly campaign.

"When I became chair of the Adult Skating Committee in May 2016, I launched an Adults Skate Tuesday campaign," Fussell said. "Our first video was from [then] U.S. Figure Skating President Sam Auxier."

The videos continued, thanks to 10-time U.S. Adult Championships competitor Lauren Day, who serves on the Adult Skating Committee.

"We focused on getting well-known and respected figures in the community to spread the message that it's cool to support adult skaters," Day said. "Fortunately, skating at various rinks in Los Angeles afforded me the opportunity to record reigning U.S. champions Gracie Gold and Adam Rippon, as well as living legends like Frank Carroll and Richard Dwyer."

Then came the crowdsourcing.

"We started receiving submissions from adult skaters telling their own stories,"

Day said. "It was wonderful to see that these were received with just as much enthusiasm as the celebrity videos, and it just goes to show how much respect and admiration we adult skaters have for each other."

The weekly Facebook campaign is still going strong, and U.S. Figure Skating President Anne Cammett was featured in 2019.

Digital marketing expert Sally-Anne Schmick was one of Facebook's first users. As an Adult Skating Committee member and three-time U.S. Adult Championships competitor, she appreciates the slogan on a professional and personal level.

"What I think makes #adultsskatetoo so popular is that there's a passionate community behind it, many of whom didn't start skating until adulthood," Schmick said. "The beauty of this hashtag is that it not only unites us, but it holds a different meaning for every skater. For those who are still young in their skating career, but not necessarily in age, it's a powerful mantra that lets them know they aren't crazy for pursuing a demanding sport, both mentally and physically."

What's next for Adults Skate Too? Well, it's not going anywhere.

"The slogan has a life of its own now and I'm happy that others are expanding its use," Fussell said. "I feel like a proud parent whose child is all grown up. It's gratifying to see the many ways that the slogan continues to inspire others and to know that in the beginning, it was my baby."





# ‘LIFER’ MAKES HISTORY

*with adult 50+ solo international dance test*

BY AVIVA M. CANTOR

In 1985, Julie Gidlow stopped skating. Thirty-four years later, she went where no adult skater had gone before.

On Dec. 22, 2019, Gidlow became the first adult candidate to complete the solo international dance test, which features five dances: Silver Samba, Cha Cha Congelado, Rhumba, Tango Romantica and Yankee Polka. Gidlow tested as a 50-and-older candidate; no skater has yet completed the test as a 21-and-older candidate.

It all started with a comeback in 1994, right after the U.S. Championships.

“I was so inspired by 28-year-old Elaine Zayak’s comeback and fourth-place finish that it motivated me to return to skating to finish the tests I didn’t finish as a kid,” Gidlow said. “That’s all I wanted to do: figure and free skating tests. Moves in the field didn’t exist yet, ice dance was never on my radar, and the last thing I wanted to do was compete.”

Never say never.

Soon, the inaugural 1995 U.S. Adult Championships was announced, and Gidlow decided to compete. She was hooked, and today, she is one of the seven “lifers” who have competed at every U.S. Adult Championships; the others are Colleen Conroy, Ted Gradman, Walter Horton, Thom Mullins, Angela Prevost and Dorothy Ray. In 2019, they became the first Platinum Lifetime Competitors in the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Lifetime Competitor Recognition Program, which honors adult skaters for longevity, rather than placement or technical prowess.

Longevity is an overarching theme for adult skaters, and Gidlow’s story is no exception.

“It’s been vitally important to listen to my body,” she said. “I learned my lesson after injuries sidelined my double jumps; I didn’t want them to sideline all of my skating — or worse, my job and life. If my body hurts, I won’t practice. That might

sound counterintuitive to the “no pain, no gain” mentality of a lot of athletes, but it works for me. In fact, when I tested my last solo international dance, the Yankee Polka, I hadn’t stepped on the ice once in the six days prior.”

A pragmatic, strategic mindset has kept Gidlow active in skating. Ultimately, it led to her interest in ice dance, which she had never pursued as a kid. As a lower-impact discipline, ice dance appeals to skaters who seek to improve their skills, advance through tests and compete without the risks associated with jumping.

“I took up dance when figures were eliminated from competition; I needed to fill that void,” Gidlow said. “I did end up competing in free skating sporadically, but I approached it as though it was a three-minute artistic program that happened to have a few technical elements in it.”

In the ever-evolving world of adult skating, a lot has changed since Gidlow first returned. Over the years, competitive opportunities have increased. The international judging system has been implemented for many levels, and the testing structure continues to develop. Gidlow saw the adult 50+ solo international dance test as the next logical step in her journey.

“I’m goal-oriented, so I’m always in search of a new challenge,” Gidlow said. “It’s what motivates me and gives me direction. I’d already passed the solo gold pattern dances and the senior solo free dance test, so the internationals were the only thing left for a solo dancer to do.”

So what’s next for Gidlow? More skating, of course.

“I just keep plugging along and try to do what I still can do, the best that I can do it,” she said. “And that was really the premise behind my decision to test the adult 50+ solo international dances — I could do them, so I did them.”

All standard dance tests are available to adult skaters. Additionally, partnered pattern dance, solo pattern dance, partnered free dance and solo free dance tests are available and may be taken as adult 21+ (21 and older) or adult 50+ (50 and older) candidates.

**Starting July 1, 2020, the solo international dance test will comprise of six dances, with the addition of the Tea-Time Foxtrot.**





# ‘POWERFUL INSIDE’

## Young skater undaunted by personal challenges

BY JOANNE VASSALLO JAMROSZ

While Kelly Arnett prepared for the 2020 Southwestern Regional Singles Challenge in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in October, the 19-year-old senior lady was telling everyone it would be her last time competing.

Arnett, who trains at the World Arena Ice Hall with coach Ryan Jahnke, was pretty sure she would not advance to the Midwestern Sectional Singles Final in Allen, Texas, the following month.

She planned to take two weeks off after regionals, try other off-ice activities, coach Learn to Skate USA classes and concentrate on her studies.

“I believe with all my heart, soul, faith and being that God had other plans for me,” Arnett said. “I ended up skating one of my best short programs and was in sixth place. The fifth-place score was a little over a point higher than mine, so I knew I had a chance to possibly qualify for sectionals.”

Arnett’s determination and resolve wasn’t lost on her coach.

“Before this article I don’t think that any other skaters knew Kelly was on the autism spectrum and had seizures as a child,” Jahnke said. “A few may have known that she had complete ACL reconstruction surgery in 2015, which took her a full year to recover.”

“Everyone knows that Kelly just doesn’t give up. Having faced so many challenges and not letting them stop her has made her wise beyond her years. On the surface she looks very simple and innocent — no fancy clothes and always a colorful bow in her hair. But she knows herself and has a more secure self-image than anyone I know under 30 years old. She is powerful inside and that is something many people cannot see on the

surface.”

That inner strength helped lift Arnett to a personal-best free skate at regionals and earn a berth into the sectional finals.

“The day of my long program I woke up at 5 a.m., because I was having a rather difficult time sleeping due to nerves,” Arnett said.

Relying on her faith to meet this latest challenge, Arnett said she felt a tremendous sense of calm as she sailed through her free skate.

“The small crowd at the World Arena gave her a standing ovation,” Jahnke said. “Though it didn’t compare to the top skater technically, we knew it was her equivalent of a nationals-winning performance. The ice was littered with small stuffed animals. Many who knew her were tearing up, including me. It was a storybook finish — fifth place, but still going to sectionals because another skater qualified through the National Qualifying Series. It was providence at work.”

Although Arnett placed last at sectionals, nothing could dampen her spirit or love for skating.

She trains 17 hours a week, skating four sessions Monday through Friday and one on Saturday. There are choreography sessions with Catarina Lindgren and Tiffany Dombeck. She is also working on her silver and pre-gold dances.

“My coach Ryan inspires me every day both on and off the ice,” Arnett said. “He has been able to pull so much more out of me than I believed or thought I was capable of and I am grateful for that. He has transformed me from an athlete into a competitive athlete who can train well daily to prepare effectively as possible for competition and the pressures

*Often enduring bullying in school, Arnett used that negative force and decided that she was going to love herself regardless of what other people say about her.*

“Kelly is a beautiful spirit. I have told her that I am not proud of her because of what she does and has done on the ice, but that I am proud of who she is off of the ice. She has the genuine ability to make people feel valued, regardless of who they are or where they are from. When she was younger, she did not know she was different. She does not want to be seen as different. I have witnessed Kelly be an incredible ambassador for the sport of figure skating. Even here at the World Arena Ice Hall, I have had parents who are visiting tell me how wonderful Kelly is — that she has made their child feel so welcome.”

— MOTHER, CHERYL ARNETT

that come with it.”

Arnett hopes her story will inspire others.

“Yes, there will be difficult days but those are the days where you have the opportunity to become more mentally tough,” she said. “Continue putting in the effort required to accomplish whatever you set your mind to and have the fight to be the best athletic version of yourself that you can be. Those days make more future difficult days tolerable to handle and take on. We can either face everything and rise or fear everything and run.”

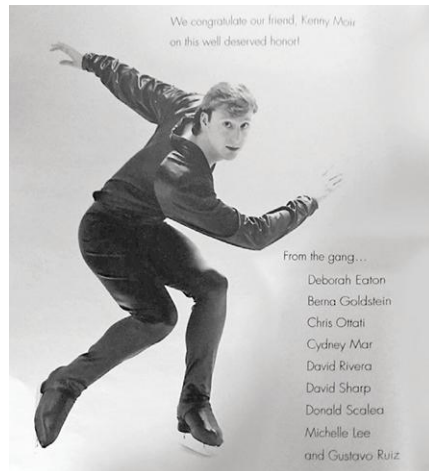


## NEW YORK CITY COACH NEEDS LIVE LIVER DONOR

BY JOANNE VASSALLO JAMROSZ

Kenny Moir cares about his skaters and supports their skating journeys at the Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers in New York City. Now this special coach needs the skating community's help.

Moir was diagnosed with NASH liver disease in 2018. Then in April of 2019, he was diagnosed with cancer in the bile duct of the liver. Doctors told Moir that finding a living liver donor is his only



chance for a cure.

"Everyone at the rink is pulling for him," Sky Rink coach Marni Halasa said. "He is an integral part of the skating community and part of the Sky Rink family and we all love him."

Halasa recently became involved in the daunting challenge of finding Moir a live donor.

"Reaching out to figure skaters first is a no-brainer," Halasa said. "My ultimate strategy is that *no* is not an answer and to keep relentlessly plugging away. I learned that from figure skating, but I also learned that from Kenny who coached me to pass the challenging eighth figure test when I was a young coach at the Sky Rink in 1996. Under Kenny's tutelage, you were going to succeed. It was just a matter of time."

According to Halasa, many people know about donor registry for a deceased person's liver, but there is no registry for living donors because it is so new.

"I think if people begin to understand that the liver regenerates within months after surgery, they will be more likely to come forward and begin to create a much-needed infrastructure for living



donors," Halasa said.

Those interested in being a potential donor for Moir should contact transplant coordinator Erica Thomas at the Mount Sinai Hospital Testing Department at [Erica.thomas@mountsinai.org](mailto:Erica.thomas@mountsinai.org) and specify that it be for Moir, or contact Moir directly at [moirkenneth76@gmail.com](mailto:moirkenneth76@gmail.com).

"All of the coaches and skaters have been so supportive of Kenny," Halasa said. "We've heard firsthand what he is going through and we realize that cancer could happen to any of us."

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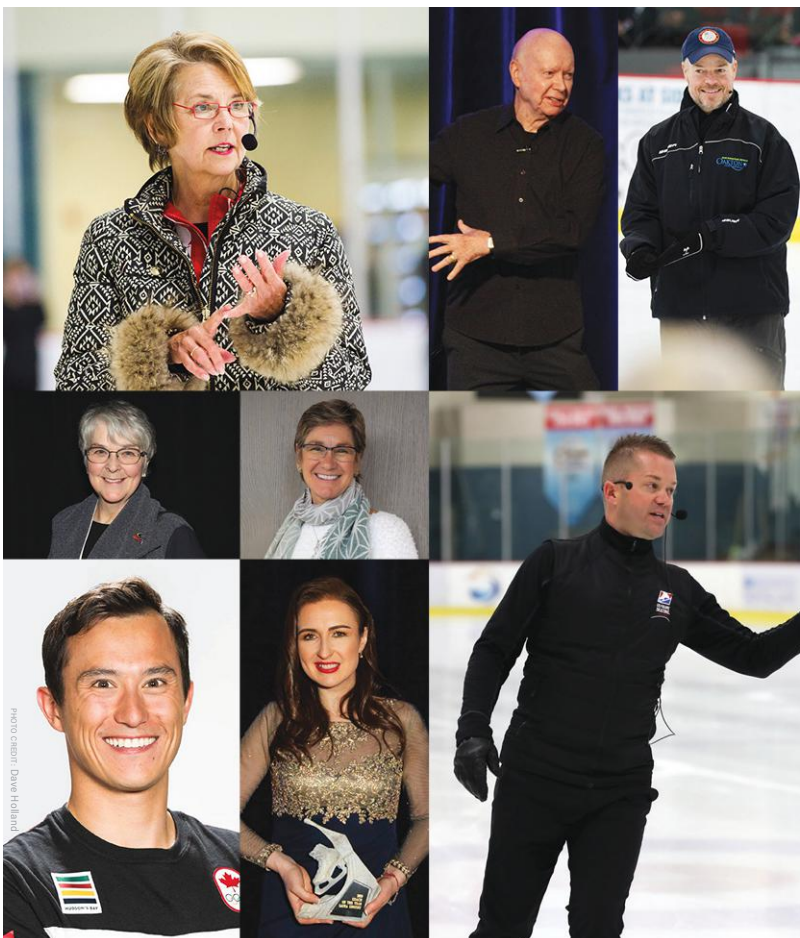


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# BUILDING A BRIDGE

U.S. coach Cindy Kim cultivating synchronized skating in Korea

BY DANA ORLINKSY, MOTHER OF TEAM IMAGE JUNIOR SKATERS



Coach Cindy Kim, back row and left in both photos, brings together Team Image skaters and skaters from Korea. Above, they visit temples in Seoul. Below, they share the ice in Korea.



As synchronized ice skating is becoming more popular in the United States and Europe, Team Image (New Rochelle, New York) coach Cindy Kim is working tirelessly to expand its reach to other parts of the world, starting with her parents' native Korea.

Kim, who is an accomplished skater and Wharton business school graduate, took up synchronized skating at age 10. She enjoyed success at every level, including a stint as a member and co-captain of the 27-time U.S. champion Haydenettes of Lexington, Massachusetts; they competed regularly at international competitions. In each of her three years as a Haydenette, the team qualified for the World Synchronized Skating Championships, finishing as high as fourth against powerhouse teams from Russia, Finland, Sweden and Canada.

As Kim transitioned from skating to





(l-r) Team Image skaters Jessica Hamburg, Caitriona Curry, Allison DeLaet and Taylor Olender take in the sights in Seoul. Left, they bond with their skating friends from Korea.



Cindy Kim

coaching, building successful teams along the way, she knew that as long as synchronized skating was not prominent in Asian countries, the sport's global reach and attention would be limited.

Her vision for growing synchronized skating in Asia began to take form in 2009 when she moved to Korea for work. She found that while Korea had a core group of strong individual figure skaters and a system that was committed to skating generally, the country lacked a foundation in synchronized skating.

With support from various Korean coaches, she mentored young skaters and choreographed several programs, so that by the time she returned to the United States in 2011, she had helped to develop three teams — two in Seoul and the other in Busan — that began to garner national attention in Korea. Upon her return to the U.S., Kim maintained her ties to synchronized skating in Korea while honing her coaching skills with U.S.-based skaters.

Kim's ascension in the synchronized skating world continued when she was

recruited to coach for Team Image in 2014. Since her return as coach, Team Image has embraced her work ethic, tenacity and determination and become an ongoing presence on the national stage. In 2017, Team Image's novice team won the Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships and placed third at the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships.

The next season, the same team transitioned to the junior ranks. It went on to win the Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships and place sixth at the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships.

Maintaining its forward trajectory, Team Image's junior team was named to the international selection pool based on its successes from last season and this season. For the first time in its 30-year history, the team was named to Team USA and captured a bronze medal in its first-ever international competition, at the Zagreb Snowflakes Trophy 2020 in Zagreb, Croatia.

Kim has leveraged her success to great effect. In 2017, fresh off the novice team's accomplishments, Kim brought one of Team Image's skaters, Erin Olender, with her to help train Korea's Team Blessing.

"Erin knows what needs to be done and

was able to show the Korean skaters how best to execute various moves and elements," Kim said.

Building off that success, in August 2019, Kim took four skaters from the junior team, Caitriona Curry, Allison DeLaet, Jessica Hamburg and Erin's younger sister, Taylor Olender, to train with Korea's Team Ice Tigers. These two trips, coupled with Kim's continuous mentorship of the skaters both in the U.S. and abroad, have left an indelible impression on skaters in both countries.

But the connection Kim has forged between the countries' skating teams and their skaters has gone beyond the sport. Not only has it improved the landscape for synchronized skating, but it has exposed young skaters from both countries to their respective cultures.

"Traveling to Korea with Cindy was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Curry said. "We were exposed to high-level skating, which helped us to grow as a synchronized skater as well as an individual."

Getting to know the Korean skaters, Allison DeLaet said, was a highlight for her.

"Going to Korea was such an enriching experience," DeLaet said. "The memories I made with the skaters I met are something I will cherish for a lifetime."

Kim, center, coaches Team Image in January at the Zagreb Snowflakes Trophy.





# RESULTS

## 2020 TOYOTA U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Greensboro, North Carolina, Jan. 20-26

**Competition Officials:** Samuel Auxier, Todd Bromley, Barbara Buch, Linda Chihara, Katherine Conrad, Kristin Arneson Cutler, Kathaleen Cutone, Richard Dalley, Deveny Deck, Janis Engel, Wendy Enzmann, Dawn Eyerly, Heather Feinstein, Janet Ford, Roger Glenn, Dana Graham, Peggy Graham, Eric Hampton, Victoria Hildebrand, Robert Horen, Stephanie Jenkins, Richard Kern, Kathleen Krieger, Larry Kriwanek, Dann Krueger, Linda Leaver, Kristina Lundgren, Hal Marron, Terri Maurice, Susan McInnes, John Millier, Danielle Hartsell Minnis, Julie Newman, Richard Perez, Connacht Peterson, Shawn Rettstatt, Danielle Rey, Sharon Rogers, Kevin Rosenstein, Gregory Rouw, William Rowe, Dana Schiff, Cynthia Stevenson, Deborah Weidman, Marc Weitzman, Doug Williams

### Championship Ladies

**Pl. Name, TS, FS, SP**

1. Alysa Liu, 235.52, 1, 2
2. Mariah Bell, 225.21, 2, 3
3. Bradie Tennell, 220.86, 3, 1
4. Karen Chen, 193.65, 4, 5
5. Amber Glenn, 186.58, 9, 4
6. Starr Andrews, 181.78, 6, 7
7. Sierra Venetta, 176.37, 5, 11
8. Courtney Hicks, 175.28, 7, 9
9. Gabriella Izzo, 174.41, 11, 6
10. Rena Ikenishi, 171.81, 8, 12
11. Maxine Marie Bautista, 171.46, 10, 10
12. Gracie Gold, 161.75, 12, 13
13. Emily Zhang, 158.36, 13, 15
14. Paige Rydberg, 150.12, 16, 8
15. Sarah Jung, 149.38, 14, 17
16. Alex Evans, 142.70, 17, 14
17. Caitlin Ha, 139.37, 18, 16
18. Alyssa Rich, 138.54, 15, 18

### Championship Men

**Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS**

1. Nathan Chen, 330.17, 1, 1
2. Jason Brown, 292.88, 2, 2
3. Tomoki Hiwatashi, 278.08, 5, 3
4. Vincent Zhou, 275.23, 4, 4
5. Andrew Torgashev, 260.64, 3, 5
6. Aleksei Krasnozhan, 241.32, 6, 6
7. Camden Pulkinen, 236.08, 7, 7
8. Dinh Tran, 220.88, 11, 8
9. Sean Rabbitt, 213.46, 8, 9
10. Yaroslav Paniot, 209.79, 9, 10
11. Ryan Dunk, 199.45, 14, 11
12. William Hubbart, 195.87, 13, 12
13. Jimmy Ma, 193.85, 12, 13
14. Jordan Moeller, 191.25, 10, 14
15. Joonsoo Kim, 177.03, 15, 15

### Championship Pairs

**Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS**

1. Alexa Knierim/Christopher Knierim, 216.15, 1, 2
2. Jessica Calalang/Brian Johnson, 213.57, 4, 1
3. Tarah Kayne/Danny OShea, 204.07, 2, 3
4. Ashley Cain-Gribble/Timothy LeDuc, 197.12, 3, 4
5. Haven Denney/Brandon Frazier, 186.25, 6, 5
6. Audrey Lu/Misha Mitrofanov, 181.49, 5, 6
7. Olivia Serafini/Mervin Tran, 171.21, 7, 7
8. Jessica Pfund/Joshua Santillan, 165.93, 8, 8
9. Nica Digerness/Danny Neudecker, 164.12, 9, 9
10. Laiken Lockley/Keenan Prochnow, 147.07, 12, 10
11. Maria Mokhova/Ivan Mokhov, 143.29, 11, 11
12. Allison Timlen/Justin Highgate-Brutman, 135.10, 10, 12

### Championship Dance

**Pl. Name, TS, RD, FD**

1. Madison Chock/Evan Bates, 221.86, 1, 1
2. Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, 217.19, 2, 2
3. Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker, 201.16, 3, 3
4. Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko, 194.16, 4, 4

5. Caroline Green/Michael Parsons, 180.25, 5, 5
6. Lorraine McNamara/Quinn Carpenter, 173.67, 6, 6
7. Eva Pate/Logan Bye, 155.82, 7, 7
8. Livvy Shilling/Alexander Petrov, 133.93, 8, 8
9. Bailey Melton/Ryan O'Donnell, 96.02, 9, 9

### Junior Ladies

**Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS**

1. Lindsay Thorngren, 183.76, 2, 1
2. Isabeau Levito, 179.47, 3, 2
3. Calista Choi, 177.05, 1, 3
4. Isabelle Inthisone, 165.34, 4, 4
5. Kate Wang, 160.88, 6, 5
6. Tamhhi Huynh, 155.44, 12, 6
7. Elsa Cheng, 151.68, 5, 7
8. Maryn Pierce, 144.32, 8, 9
9. Ellen Slavicek, 143.58, 10, 8
10. Jessica Lin, 137.95, 15, 10
11. Lara Annunziata, 137.36, 9, 13
12. Noelle Rosa, 137.24, 11, 12
13. Mia Kalin, 131.80, 7, 17
14. Mauryn Tyack, 128.70, 14, 16
15. Hannah Herrera, 126.60, 16, 15
16. Hazel Collier, 125.90, 17, 14
17. Mia Eckels, 123.52, 18, 11
18. Michelle Lee, 120.80, 13, 18

### Junior Men

**Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS**

1. Maxim Naumov, 206.92, 1, 2
2. Eric Sjoberg, 202.38, 6, 1
3. Liam Kapeikis, 189.15, 2, 4
4. Lucas Altieri, 187.94, 4, 3
5. Nicholas Hsieh, 183.54, 5, 5
6. Joseph Kang, 177.80, 3, 7
7. Chase Finster, 171.98, 8, 6
8. Matthew Nielsen, 165.59, 9, 9
9. David Shapiro, 165.39, 12, 8
10. Samuel Mindra, 164.51, 7, 11
11. Kai Kovar, 162.26, 11, 10
12. Daniel Martynov, 158.54, 13, 12
13. Joseph Klein, 155.98, 15, 13
14. Robert Yampolsky, 147.62, 16, 14
15. Goku Endo, 146.94, 10, 18
16. Daniel Turchin, 145.09, 14, 17
17. Jacob Sanchez, 142.19, 17, 15
18. Seth Kurogi, 139.75, 18, 16

### Junior Pairs

**Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS**

1. Kate Finster/Balazs Nagy, 169.37, 1, 2
2. Anastasiia Smirnova/Danil Sianiytsia, 163.04, 3, 1
3. Winter Dearthoff/Mikhail Johnson, 149.47, 2, 3
4. Cate Fleming/Jedidiah Isbell, 131.58, 4, 4
5. Isabelle Martins/Ryan Bedard, 119.94, 9, 5
6. Sydney Cooke/Timmy Chapman, 115.58, 5, 6
7. Sydney Flaum/Alex Wellman, 111.84, 7, 7
8. Sarah Burden/Jake Pagano, 109.04, 6, 8
9. Analise Gonzalez/Franz-Peter Jerosch, 104.20, 8, 9
10. Arianna Varvoutis/Derrick Griffin, 97.72, 10, 10

### Junior Dance

**Pl. Name, TS, RD, FD**

1. Avonley Nguyen/Vadym Kolesnik, 184.38, 1, 1
2. Katarina Wolfkostin/Jeffrey Chen, 161.39, 4, 2
3. Oona Brown/Gage Brown, 160.54, 3, 3
4. Molly Cesanek/Yehor Yehorov, 159.09, 2, 4
5. Katarina DelCamp/Ian Somerville, 148.59, 5, 5
6. Angela Ling/Caleb Wein, 135.76, 6, 7
7. Elizabeth Tkachenko/Alexei Kiliakov, 134.06, 7, 6
8. Ella Ales/Daniel Tsarik, 131.09, 8, 8
9. Layla Karnes/Kenan Slevira, 127.78, 9, 9
10. Samantha Ritter/Jim Wang, 114.94, 10, 10
11. Cordelia Pride/Benjamin Lawless, 104.44, 11, 11
12. Hilary Asher/Kyle Pearson, 98.15, 13, 12
13. Isabella Flores/Adam Bouaziz, 93.33, 12, 13
14. Breelie Taylor/Tyler Vollmer, 83.31, 14, 14

## LEON LURJE TROPHY 2020

Jan. 24-25, Gothenburg, Sweden  
Senior

**Pl., Team, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Paradise, RUS, 231.85, 1, 1
2. Unique, FIN, 227.61, 2, 3
3. Crystal Ice Senior, RUS, 223.44, 4, 2
4. Lumineers, FIN, 207.46, 5, 5
5. Nova Senior, CAN, 207.31, 6, 4
6. Nexxice, CAN, 206.12, 3, 6
7. Miami University, USA, 186.98, 7, 7
8. Crystallettes, USA, 180.77, 8, 8
9. Hot Shivers, ITA, 158.15, 9, 9
10. Berlin, GER, 149.71, 10, 10
11. Passion, HUN, 132.86, 11, 11
12. Ice Storm, AUS, 102.60, 12, 12

### Junior

**Pl., Team, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Sunrise, RUS, 202.46, 2, 1
2. Crystal Ice, RUS, 196.81, 1, 3
3. Fintastic, FIN, 193.35, 3, 2
4. Starlights, USA, 172.47, 4, 6
5. Valley Bay Synchro, FIN, 170.41, 7, 4
6. Nova, CAN, 167.79, 6, 5
7. Fond du Lac Blades, USA, 155.51, 5, 8
8. Spirit, SWE, 148.35, 8, 9
9. Seaside, SWE, 147.32, 9, 7
10. Hot Shivers, ITA, 132.90, 10, 12
11. Convivium, SWE, 129.61, 11, 11
12. Ice Ignite, CAN, 128.53, 12, 10
13. Berlin, GER, 108.51, 13, 13
14. Moonlights, SWE, 76.07, 15, 14
15. Solway Stars, GBR, 73.14, 14, 15

**U.S. Official:** Jeanette Davey

## WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES LAUSANNE 2020

Jan. 10-15, Lausanne, Switzerland

**Pl., Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

### Ladies

1. Young You, KOR, 214.00, 1, 1
  7. Audrey Shin, USA, 176.67, 7, 7
  13. Kate Wang, USA, 141.17, 10, 14
- Men**
1. Yuma Kagiyama, JPN, 239.17, 3, 1
  10. Liam Kapeikis, USA, 161.59, 14, 9

### Pairs

1. Apollinariia Panfilova/Dmitry Rylov, RUS, 199.21, 1, 1
  6. Cate Fleming/Jedidiah Isbell, USA, 137.97, 4, 6
- Ice Dance**
1. Irina Khavronina/Dario Cirisano, RUS, 164.63, 1, 1
  3. Katarina Wolfkostin/Jeffrey Chen, USA, 152.43, 5, 3

## BRITANNIA CUP

Jan. 11-12, Nottingham, Great Britain

### Senior

**Pl., Name, Country, SP, FS, TS**

1. Haydenettes, USA, 1, 1, 206.66
2. Adrian College, USA, 2, 2, 171.90
3. Hot Shivers, ITA, 3, 3, 157.94
4. Icicles, GBR, 4, 4, 109.79
5. Zariba, GBR, 5, 5, 87.05

### Junior

**Pl., Name, Country, SP, FS, TS**

1. Skyliners, USA, 1, 2, 176.15
2. Starlights, USA, 2, 1, 168.77
3. DC EDGE, USA, 3, 3, 150.89
4. Hot Shivers, ITA, 4, 4, 130.46
5. Team Estreija, FIN, 5, 5, 128.69
6. Icicles, GBR, 6, 6, 104.65
7. Les Chrysalides, FRA, 6, 7, 98.25
8. Solway Stars, GBR, 7, 8, 94.96
9. Team Illuminettes, NED, 9, 9, 88.43

**U.S. Official:** Rick Perez



# RESULTS

## ZAGREB SNOWFLAKES TROPHY 2020

Jan. 17-18, Zagreb, Croatia  
Senior

**PL., Team, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Skyliners, USA, 210.89, 1, 1
2. Adrian College, USA, 184.24, 2, 2
3. Team Darlings, CZE, 149.94, 3, 3
4. Ice on Fire, ITA, 127.44, 4, 4
5. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 100.17, 5, 5

Junior

**PL., Team, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Fintastic, FIN, 198.29, 1, 1
2. Lexettes, USA, 172.15, 3, 2
3. Team Image, USA, 162.00, 2, 4
4. Gold Ice, CAN, 157.37, 4, 3
5. Sun City Swing, FIN, 142.36, 5, 5
6. Shining Blades, ITA, 105.49, 7, 6
7. Harmonia, CZE, 105.05, 6, 7
8. Kometa, CZE, 94.52, 9, 8
9. Team Magic, HUN, 88.72, 8, 10
10. Zagreb Snowflakes, CRO, 82.54, 10, 9

**U.S. official:** Paula Ziegler

## 2020 PACIFIC COAST SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WICHITA, KANSAS, JAN. 15-19

**Competition Officials:** Lauren Bracken, M. Lynn Eisenhour, Courtney Fecske, Rebecca Finder, Susan Haugh, Audrey Kamm, Carylyn Landt, Lois Long, Hannelore Murphy, Summer Nagy, Ellie Nielsen, Lori Osborne, Pamela Pangle, Daren Patterson, Richard Perez, Stephanie Pusch, Mary Lou Rothman, Karin Sherr, Barbara Shostak, Hazel Wecal, Lauren Whittaker, Mary Ann Wilcox

Adult

**Pl. Name, TS**

1. California Gold, 51.10
2. Denver Synchronicity, 44.32
3. Tremors of San Francisco, 40.82

Intermediate

**Pl. Name, TS**

1. Pacific Edge, 48.38
2. Denver Synchronicity, 45.62
3. Tremors of San Francisco, 44.94
4. Fusion, 44.28
5. California Gold, 42.14

Juvenile

**Pl. Name, TS**

1. Fusion, 26.90

Masters

**Pl. Name, TS**

1. IceSymmetrics, 34.09
2. Denver Synchronicity, 31.66
3. Washington Ice Emeralds, 19.48

Open Adult Championships

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Washington Ice Emeralds, 7/1
2. Matrix, 7/2

Open Juvenile Championships

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Tremors of San Francisco, 4/1
2. Team del Sol, 5/2
3. Rose City Crystals, 4/3
4. Pacific Edge, 4/5, TOM 15
5. Denver Synchronicity, 4/5, TOM 16
6. Washington Ice Emeralds, 4/6, TOM 39
7. Silver Stars, 4/6, TOM 40
8. Flatirons Sparks, 4/6, TOM 19

Open Masters Championships

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Cold Fusion, 7/1
2. Fort Collins Fire Crystals, 7/2

Pre-Juvenile Championships

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Tremors of San Francisco, 6/1
2. Fire Crystals, 5/3
3. Matrix, 4/3, TOM 8
4. San Diego Shining Blades, 4/3, TOM 12

5. Ice Cadettes, 6/5
6. Fusion, 5/6
7. Flatirons Sparks, 7/7

Preliminary Championships

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Tremors of San Francisco, 7/1
2. Ice Cadettes, 7/2
3. Denver Synchronicity, 7/3

## 2020 MIDWESTERN SYNCHRONIZED SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WICHITA, KANSAS, JAN. 15-19

**Competition Officials:** Lauren Bracken, M. Lynn Eisenhour, Courtney Fecske, Rebecca Finder, Susan Haugh, Audrey Kamm, Carylyn Landt, Lois Long, Hannelore Murphy, Summer Nagy, Ellie Nielsen, Lori Osborne, Pamela Pangle, Daren Patterson, Richard Perez, Stephanie Pusch, Mary Lou Rothman, Karin Sherr, Barbara Shostak, Hazel Wecal, Lauren Whittaker, Mary Ann Wilcox, Steve Wolkin

Intermediate

**Pl. Name, TS**

1. Teams Elite, 70.78
2. Capital Ice Chips, 64.03
3. Starlights, 51.99
4. Crystallettes, 51.86
5. Chicago Skates, 51.83
6. Dazzlers, 51.64
7. Hockettes, 46.27
8. Fond Du Lac Blades, 45.21
9. Team Velocity, 44.77
10. Kalamazoo Kinetic, 44.22
11. Northern Lights, 44.04
12. Cleveland Ice Storm, 42.19
13. Starfire, 40.55
14. Wisconsin Inspire, 37.54
15. Kansas City Illusion Intermediate, 33.47

Novice

**Pl. Name, TS**

1. Teams Elite, 97.09
2. Crystallettes, 76.56
3. Hockettes, 70.63
4. Starlights, 66.71
5. Northernettes, 65.28
6. Wisconsin Inspire, 65.02
7. Saint Louis Synergy, 60.53
8. Cleveland Ice Storm, 55.38
9. Ice Diamonds, 52.20

Junior

**Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS**

1. Hockettes, 146.56, 1, 2
2. Northernettes, 138.92, 2, 1
3. Dazzlers, 131.44, 3, 4
4. Saint Louis Synergy, 126.22, 4, 3

Juvenile

**Pl. Name, TS**

1. Teams Elite, 51.46
2. Starlights, 42.98
3. Wisconsin Inspire, 40.50
4. Crystallettes, 39.63
5. Saint Louis Synergy, 39.53
6. Hockettes, 39.15
7. Capital Ice Connection, 36.82
8. Fond Du Lac Blades, 32.05
9. Northernettes, 27.13

Adult

**Pl. Name, TS**

1. Crystallettes, 55.43
2. Starlights, 48.06
3. Allegro!, 44.25
4. United Ice, 37.94
5. Infinity Onyx, 34.88
6. Kansas City Illusion, 32.08
7. Leather And Laces, 28.57

Masters

**Pl. Name, TS**

1. Allegro!, 38.80

2. Goldenettes, 36.01
3. Starlights, 25.73
4. Infinity Onyx, 23.45

Collegiate

**Pl. Name, TS**

1. Miami University, 100.32
2. Adrian College, 85.71
3. University of Michigan, 84.35
4. Michigan State University, 80.52
5. Western Michigan University, 69.85
6. Trine University, 50.82

Open Adult Championships

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Austintatious Stars, 5/1
2. The Lakers, 6/2
3. Kicks, 7/3
4. Fire and Ice, 7/4

Open Collegiate Championships

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Adrian College Varsity, 7/1
2. Miami University Club, 4/2
3. University of Michigan, 4/3
4. (tie) University of Illinois, 4/4  
Western Michigan University, 4/4
6. University of Notre Dame, 6/6
7. University of Missouri, 7/7

Open Juvenile Championships

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Fond Du Lac Blades, 4/2, TOM 5
2. Capital Ice Chill, 4/2, TOM 7
3. Starlights, 5/3
4. Chicago Skates, 4/3
5. Emerald Blades, 5/5
6. T. Lights, 6/6
7. Chicago Radiance, 5/7
8. Northern Lights, 4/7
9. Madison Ice Diamonds, 5/8
10. Kicks, 4/9
11. C. Intensity, 4/10
12. All That Jazz, 5/11

Open Juvenile QR Group A

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Starlights, 6/1
2. Northern Lights, 7/3
3. Madison Ice Diamonds, 5/4, TOM 15
4. Kicks, 5/4, TOM 16
5. Rhythm And Blades, 6/5
6. Hockettes, 5/6
7. Dazzlers - Silver, 4/6
8. Team Velocity, 7/8

Open Juvenile QR Group B

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Capital Ice Chill, 6/1
2. Fond Du Lac Blades, 5/3
3. Chicago Radiance, 4/3
4. All That Jazz, 4/4
5. Ice Diamonds, 4/5
6. The Golden Edge, 4/6
7. R. Sapphires, 6/7
8. Windjammers, 4/7

Open Juvenile QR Group C

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Chicago Skates, 5/2
2. Capital Classics Team Intensity, 4/3
3. Emerald Blades, 5/4
4. Traverse City Northern Lights, 4/4
5. Crystallettes, 5/5
6. Dazzlers - Blue, 4/5
7. Cleveland Ice Storm, 5/7
8. Arctic Edge Unity, 7/8
9. Griffon Gliders Gold, 7/9

Open Masters Championships

**Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker**

1. Allegro!, 5/1
2. Arctic Edge Unity, 7/2
3. Kansas City Illusion, 7/3



# RESULTS

## Pre-Juvenile Championships

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Teams Elite, 6/1
2. Cleveland Ice Storm, 5/3
3. Arctic Edge Unity, 4/4
4. Windjammers, 4/5, TO 32
5. Wisconsin Edge, 4/5, TO 37
6. Chicago Skates, 4/5, TOM 16
7. Starr Blades, 6/7
8. ONYX, 4/8, TOM 24
9. (tie) Dazzlers, 4/8  
Saint Louis Synergy, 4/8

## Pre-Juvenile Preliminary Round A

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Teams Elite, 7/1
2. Chicago Skates, 6/2
3. Dazzlers, 6/4, TOM 20
4. Starr Blades, 6/4, TOM 22
5. ONYX, 7/5
6. Ice Sparklers, 5/6
7. Kansas City Illusion, 6/7
8. Griffon Gliders Silver, 7/8

## Pre-Juvenile Preliminary Round B

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Cleveland Ice Storm, 6/2
2. Arctic Edge Unity, 5/2
3. Windjammers, 4/3
4. Wisconsin Edge, 4/5, TOM 14
5. Saint Louis Synergy, 4/5, TOM 17
6. Chicago Radiance, 4/6
7. Starfire, 4/7, TOM 18
8. Northern Lights, 4/7, TOM 21
9. Louisville River Stars, 4/7, TOM 26

## Preliminary Championships

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Teams Elite, 4/1
2. Crystallettes, 6/2
3. Starlights, 5/3
4. Saint Louis Synergy, 4/4
5. Cleveland Ice Storm, 4/5, TOM 16
6. Hockettes, 4/5, TOM 19
7. Fond Du Lac Blades, 4/6
8. Starfire, 7/8
9. All That Jazz, 7/9

## 2020 EASTERN SYNCHRONIZED

### SKATING SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Albany, New York, Jan. 15-18

**Competition Officials:** Michele Blatt, Erin Bridge, Ann Buckley, Melissa Christensen, Jeanette Davey, Laura Days, Judith Edmunds, Ann Fauver, Felicia Haining-Miller, Devon Hensel, Lisa Insley, Caren Kirsch, Andrew Lam, Cheryl Litman, Alyssa Liverette, Alexandra Mahler-Haug, William Mein, Lauren O'Toole, Matthew O'Toole, Scheherezade Redmond, Elliot Schwartz, Sara Jayne Stephens, Mary-Elizabeth Wightman

## Juvenile

### Pl. Name, TS

1. Skyliners, 49.79
2. DC EDGE, 42.09
3. Mini Mates, 41.66
4. Team Image, 39.31
5. Team Excel, 36.40
6. Team Ashburn, 32.87
7. Synchroettes, 30.07
8. Triangle Formation, 25.08
9. Aviator Ice Dazzlers, 21.48

## Intermediate

### Pl. Name, TS

1. Ice Mates, 64.90
2. Skyliners, 59.95
3. Triangle Formation, 55.34
4. Team Image, 54.15
5. DC EDGE, 53.24
6. Mirror Images, 47.44
7. Team Ashburn, 46.89
8. Team Excel, 42.71

9. Chesapeake Synchro, 38.15
10. Steel City Blades, 38.08
11. CP Ice, 37.41
12. IceLiners, 34.74
13. New Jersey Black Diamonds, 33.20
14. Team Believe, 31.63
15. Team Delaware, 31.47

## Junior

### Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Team Delaware, 117.35, 2, 1
2. Team Excel, 108.01, 1, 2
3. Synchroettes, 90.48, 3, 3

## Collegiate

### Pl. Name, TS

1. University of Delaware, 80.38
2. Team Excel, 71.73
3. Boston University, 67.08
4. University of Massachusetts, 53.90
5. Liberty University Flames, 52.48
6. Mirror Images, 48.63

## Masters

### Pl. Name, TS

1. Esprit de Corps, 43.32
2. DC EDGE, 38.58
3. Gotham City Synchro, 30.26
4. The Colonials, 28.36
5. Essex Blades, 24.07

## Novice

### Pl. Name, TS

1. Skyliners Blue, 80.31
2. Skyliners Black, 74.64
3. Star Mates, 72.00
4. DC EDGE, 69.28
5. Team Image, 61.84
6. Team Ashburn, 60.56
7. Team Delaware, 57.22
8. Carolina Ice Synchro, 48.88
9. Richmond Synchro, 46.99
10. Synchroettes, 45.64

## Adult

### Pl. Name, TS

1. Esprit de Corps, 54.23
2. Team Delaware, 52.52
3. Team Excel, 51.37
4. The Colonials, 47.76
5. DC EDGE, 47.42
6. Team Image, 47.17
7. Gotham City Synchro, 46.13
8. Ocean Blades, 36.96
9. Mirror Images, 35.18

## Open Juvenile

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. DC EDGE Red, 6/2
2. Icing On The Cape, 4/2
3. Superettes, 5/4, TOM 15
4. CNY Blizzard, 5/4, TOM 16
5. Team Excel, 5/6
6. (tie) DC EDGE Blue, 4/6  
National Blades, 4/6
8. Precisely Right, 4/7
9. NESc Ice Illusion, 4/8
10. Island Waves, 4/10
11. Philadelphia Symmetry, 6/11
12. Team Rinx, 7/12

## Open Juvenile QR Group A

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Superettes, 7/1
2. Team Rinx, 4/3, TOM 9
3. Island Waves, 4/3, TOM 12
4. National Blades, 5/4
5. Richmond Synchro, 4/4
6. Sparklers, 5/6
7. Rainbow Connection, 4/6
8. Ellenton Edge, 7/8

## Open Juvenile QR Group B

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Icing On The Cape, 5/1
2. DC EDGE Red, 6/2
3. DC EDGE Blue, 5/4

4. NESc Ice Illusion, 5/5, TOM 19
5. C. Juvenile, 5/5, TOM 20
6. Shadows, 4/5
7. CP Ice, 7/7
8. Syracuse Symmetry, 7/8

## Open Juvenile QR Group C

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Team Excel, 4/2, TOM 5
2. Precisely Right, 4/2, TOM 7
3. CNY Blizzard, 4/4, TOM 9
4. Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/4, TOM 10
5. Synchro Stars, 4/4, TOM 12
6. Charlotte Synchro, 4/5
7. Gardens Synchronicity, 6/7
8. Team Ashburn, 7/8

## Open Collegiate

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Boston College Eagles, 4/1
2. Orange Exp. At Syracuse, 5/2
3. Princeton U Synchro Team, 4/3
4. Oswego State Ice Effects, 5/4, TOM 15
5. Univ. of MD Terrapins, 5/4, TOM 17
6. W.V. Univ. Mountaintettes, 4/5
7. Univ. of VT Synchro Team, 7/7

## Open Adult

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Gardens Synchronicity, 4/1
2. Empire Edge, 6/2
3. Richmond Synchro, 4/3
4. Cutting Edge, 7/4
5. Philly Spirit, 4/5
6. Mohawk Valley Blades, 4/6
7. Team Reflections, 7/7

## Open Masters

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. The Colonials, 7/1
2. Mirror Images, 4/2
3. Maine DownEasters, 4/3, TOM 9
4. Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/3, TOM 12

## Pre-Juvenile

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Skyliners, 5/1
2. The Colonials, 4/2
3. DC EDGE, 5/3
4. Munchkins, 5/4
5. Team Image, 5/5
6. Shooting Stars, 4/5
7. Shimmers, 4/6
8. Steel City Blades, 4/7
9. Precisely Right, 6/10
10. Chesapeake Synchro, 4/10
11. CT Ice Fusion, 7/11
12. Team Ashburn, 7/12

## Pre-Juvenile QR Group A

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Munchkins, 5/1
2. DC EDGE, 6/2
3. Precisely Right, 4/3
4. CT Ice Fusion, 6/5
5. CP Ice, 5/5
6. Syracuse Symmetry, 5/6
7. SCW Blades, 7/7
8. Saint Sensations, 5/8
9. Sparklers, 7/9

## Pre-Juvenile QR Group B

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Shooting Stars, 6/1
2. Shimmers, 5/2
3. Team Ashburn, 5/4
4. Chesapeake Synchro, 4/4
5. Synchroettes, 4/5, TOM 15
6. Valley Forge Cadettes, 4/5, TOM 18
7. Aviator Ice Dazzlers, 4/6
8. National Blades, 5/8
9. Mirror Images, 4/8
10. Richmond Synchro, 7/10

## Pre-Juvenile QR Group C

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

1. Skyliners, 5/1



# RESULTS

- The Colonials, 4/2
- Steel City Blades, 5/3
- Team Image, 6/4
- IceLiners, 6/6
- CNY Storm, 6/7
- Charlotte Synchro, 4/7, TO 49
- Synchro Stars, 4/7, TO 50
- Connecticut Rinkettes, 5/8
- Team Delaware, 7/10

## Preliminary

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Skyliners, 7/1
- DC EDGE Blue, 6/2
- Team Excel, 5/3
- Shooting Stars, 4/4
- Team Image SST, 5/5
- Skyliners Pre, 4/5
- The Colonials, 6/7
- Synchroettes, 7/9
- Team Ashburn, 4/9
- Precisely Right, 7/10

### Preliminary QR Group A

#### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- DC EDGE Blue, 6/1
- Team Excel, 6/2
- Team Ashburn, 4/3
- The Colonials, 4/4

- Precisely Right, 5/6
- Steel City Blades, 4/6, TOM 19
- Philadelphia Symmetry, 4/6, TOM 21
- DC EDGE Red, 7/8

## Preliminary QR Group B

### Pl. Name, Maj, Tie Breaker

- Shooting Stars, 5/1
- Skyliners Pre, 5/3, TOM 10
- Team Image SST, 5/3, TOM 12
- Skyliners, 6/4
- Synchroettes, 4/5
- New Jersey Skyliners, 7/6
- Team Rinx, 5/7
- Connecticut Rinkettes, 5/8
- Chesapeake Synchro, 7/9

## FRENCH CUP

### Jan. 30-Feb. 1, Rouen, France

#### Pl., Team, Country, TS, SP, FS

##### Senior

- Helsinki Rockettes, FIN, 227.48, 2, 1
- Marigold Ice Unity, FIN, 224.08, 1, 2
- Les Supremes, CAN, 219.39, 3, 3
- Paradise, RUS, 217.23, 4, 4
- Haydenettes, USA, 195.62, 5, 5**
- Miami University, USA, 179.48, 6, 6**
- Zoulous, FRA, 150.64, 7, 7

- United Angels, GER, 115.77, 8, 8
- Fusion, ESP, 101.04, 9, 10
- Icicles, GBR, 100.25, 11, 9
- Nova, AUS, 95.71, 10, 11

## Junior

### Pl., Team, Country, TS, SP, FS

- Junost, RUS, 205.21, 1, 1
- Dream Edges, FIN, 191.02, 2, 2
- Musketeers, FIN, 186.55, 3, 4
- Skyliners, USA, 183.00, 6, 3**
- Teams Elite, USA, 179.41, 7, 5**
- Nexxice, CAN, 177.07, 5, 6
- Les Supremes, CAN, 176.44, 4, 7
- Team Convivium, SWE, 133.59, 8, 8
- Team Jeanne D'Arc, FRA, 126.92, 9, 9
- Chrysalides, FRA, 104.89, 10, 10
- Zazous, FRA, 92.78, 11, 11
- Icicles, GBR, 91.83, 12, 12
- Shining Blades, ITA, 87.23, 13, 13
- Team Illuminettes, NED, 68.64, 14, 14

**U.S. Officials:** Rick Perez, Karin Sherr

# TESTS PASSED

## Senior moves in the field

Annika Allen — Burnsville-MN Valley FSC  
 Audrey Balazs — FSC of Southern California  
 Ashley Biggii — Knickerbocker FSC  
 Anna Blaski — Onyx-Suburban SA  
 Alina Bohutska — SC of New York  
 Jacqueline Born — SC of Wilmington  
 Rachel Bournias — Albuquerque FSC  
 Gabrielle Brandt — SC of New York  
 Olivia Cama — Great Bay FSC  
 Kathryn Cochran — Washington FSC  
 Lilly Composto — Eden Prairie FSC  
 Lauryn Cook — Rhinelander FSC  
 Nika Dal — SC of New York  
 Amira David — Braemar-City of Lakes FSC  
 Kelsey DeLaney — Findlay Silver Blades FSC  
 Samantha Evers — Saratoga Springs FSC  
 Isabella Gould — SC of New York  
 Megan Griffin — Coyotes SC of Arizona  
 Anthony Haddad — All Year FSC  
 Leah Han — Cottonwood Heights FSC  
 Madison Hilty — White Rose FSC  
 Claire Huston — Skokie Valley SC  
 Yaoyue Jiang — All Year FSC  
 YuanShi Jin — Los Angeles FSC  
 Leah Jundt — Northern Lights FSC  
 Breanna Kressin — Crookston FSC  
 Caroline Lay — Individual member  
 Josephine Lee — Peninsula SC  
 Olivia Lee — SC of Morris NJ  
 Matthew Leissring — St. Moritz ISC  
 Evelyn Lemm — Ann Arbor FSC  
 Nori Leybengrub — Baltimore FSC  
 Rachael Lim — Winchester FSC  
 Elyce Lin-Gracey — Pasadena FSC  
 Grace Liu — Washington FSC  
 Emma Locketz — Lake Minnetonka FSC  
 Zachary LoPinto — SC of New York  
 Caden Hunter Lorenzi — McCall FSC  
 Madelyn Lyons — Cache Valley FSC  
 Sara Maity — Glacier Falls FSC  
 Camilla Manz — Colonial FSC  
 Sophie Marisi — Hershey FSC  
 Kailey Martinson — Red River Valley FSC  
 Montana Mason — Buffalo SC

Grace McConnell — Skokie Valley SC  
 Annabelle McKenzie — SC of New York  
 Laura Molloy — Pawtucket and Providence FSC  
 Kylie Mullis — FSC of Charleston  
 Gianna Nelson — Wagon Wheel FSC  
 Jackie Nicolaus — SC of Mt Lebanon  
 Anna Sophia O'Brien — North Jersey FSC  
 Anita Ong — SC of New York  
 Gabriella Peck — Cottonwood Heights FSC  
 Gabrielle Pezzulo — Pines FSC  
 Garrett Pham — Cottonwood Heights FSC  
 Caitlyn Rasband — Utah FSC  
 Phoebe Reineking — Chicago FSC  
 Brooke Robbins — Gate City FSC  
 Gabriella Rodek — North Jersey FSC  
 Paige Rowan — Colonial FSC  
 Haley Shewchuk — Wyandotte FSC  
 Anika Shridhar — Colonial FSC  
 Talia Starren — Eau Claire FSC  
 Analena Stateczny — DuPage FSC  
 Maddie Strom — Southport SC  
 Eliza Tan — Richmond FSC  
 Emma Templeton — Murray Silver Blades FSC  
 Ellie Ungashick — Northeast ISC At Valley Rinks  
 Julia Urban — DuPage FSC  
 Marie Wallin — Elk River FSC  
 Chava Weingarten — St. Moritz ISC  
 Chelsey Wertans — Saratoga Springs FSC  
 Alexa Winter — Baltimore FSC  
 Pina Yee — Individual member  
 Seesy Yi — Lake Minnetonka FSC  
 Lisa Zhu — Dallas FSC  
 Ana Zoko — Glenwood FSC  
**Adult gold moves in the field - Adult 21+**  
 Hsin-Wei Chiang — Murray Silver Blades FSC  
 Kirill Solovyev — Baltimore FSC  
 Robert Springer — Deep Freeze SC  
 Mark Stein — Deep Freeze SC  
 Sarah Warden — Skating Club of Boston  
**Adult senior moves in the field 21+**  
 Melissa McMenemy — Atlanta FSC  
**Adult gold moves in the field - Adult 50+**  
 Jacki Sadowski — Mountain Edge SC of Colorado  
**Senior free skate**  
 Hailey Bowman — Lakewood Winter Club

Daimion Davis — Cottonwood Heights FSC  
 Sydney Horenstein — Philadelphia SC & HS  
 Britta Hornback — Starlight Ice Dance Club  
 Katherine Keating — Mitchell Johansson Method  
 Alina McIntyre — Eau Claire FSC  
 Makayla Robitaille — Red Rose FSC  
 Leah Smith — Starlight Ice Dance Club  
 Megan Tso — Ice House Of New Jersey FSC  
 Grace Wang — Onyx-Suburban Skating Academy  
 Justine Weir — Individual member  
**Adult Gold Free Skate**  
 Megan Daly — Skating Club of San Francisco  
 Leslie Duskin — Skating Club of San Francisco  
**Gold dance**  
 Sophia Babar — Hershey FSC  
 Lauryn Cook — Rhinelander FSC  
 Alexandra Davidson — Wissahickon SC  
 Leah Jundt — Northern Lights FSC  
 Klara Kowar — Aspen SC  
 Marie Moeller — Richmond FSC  
 Sammy Murray — FSC of Cincinnati  
 Morgan Windmueller — Rochester FSC  
**Solo gold dance**  
 Scottlyn Anderson — Wasatch FSC  
 Ariana Gnas — SC of Mt Lebanon  
 Rachel Gray — Forestwood FSC of Parma Ohio  
 Erin Scheske — Plymouth FSC  
**Senior free dance**  
 Stefanie Page — Washington FSC  
**Adult Gold Free Dance 21+**  
 Adam Swift — Penguin FSC  
**Senior solo free dance**  
 Brianna Anderson — Northern Lights FSC  
 Nicolette Barba — Los Angeles FSC  
 Lauryn Cook — Rhinelander FSC  
 Lauren Currin — Richmond FSC  
 Sarah Dower — Hershey FSC  
 Katerina Dunleavy — Uncle Sam SC  
 Alexis Jensen — Cottonwood Heights FSC  
 Lizzy Mar — Skokie Valley SC  
 Michelle Murphy-Cruz — Kingsgate SC  
 Leah Smith — Starlight Ice Dance Club  
 Keri Stanley — Genesee FSC  
 Emory Sutton — SC of Northern Virginia  
 Rebecca Winer — University of Delaware FSC



## OBITUARY

### MEYERS

Frederick D. (Fritz) Meyers, a Midwestern vice president and longtime national accountant at U.S. Figure Skating, died on Dec. 9, 2019. He was 93.

A member of the Columbus Figure Skating Club, Fritz served U.S. Figure Skating in different capacities from 1967 to 2000, including sectional vice chair of the Competitions Committee in 1992-93. He was named an honorary national accountant in 2014.

"U.S. Figure Skating was fortunate to have attracted such a quietly competent, true gentleman as Fritz," Barbara Holland, a colleague of Meyers, said. "Charming,

kind and caring, he found talented individuals with a reason to have a passion for the sport and mentored the next generation of accountants.

"His daughter BethAnn and his engineering and teaching background brought him to us; then he just knew how to elevate the system to the next level of analytical proficiency."

Fritz was an engineer and technical director with Owens-Corning Corporation for 30 years. His favorite undertaking as senior project engineer was of the Baltimore federal works building.

He received engineering and master's in business administration degrees

from The Ohio State University. He was a professor of engineering at Texas A&M and at The Ohio State University, where he was chair of the engineering graphics department and faculty emeritus.

He is predeceased by his parents, Sherman F. Meyers and Florence Marie Meyers (nee Pyle), his wife Mary Elizabeth Meyers (nee Melick), and his wife, Monalee Williams Meyers. He is survived by his only child with Mary, BethAnn Hullinger (nee Meyers) and Jeffrey P. Hullinger, of Southern California; his granddaughter, Dr. Heidi Martin Hullinger, James C. Martin; and his great-granddaughter, Aviana Noelle Martin of New York City.

## MEMORIAL FUND

### MEMORIAL FUND General Donations and Team USA

Anonymous  
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DeDe Disbrow  
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Gayle Glennon  
**Rebecca Unze**  
Starlights Skating Club  
**Ben Wright**  
Janet Carpenter  
Lainie DeMore

**IN HONOR OF**  
**Trial Judges at the 2020  
U.S. Figure Skating Champi-  
onships: Molly Marron, Gin-  
ny McNally, Juliet Newcom-  
er, Goleen Samari, Whitney  
Luke, Taffy Holliday, Laurie  
Johnson and Lynn Bell**

Rachel Naphtal  
**Margaret Faulkner**  
Melanie Faulkner Bolhuis  
**Kathleen Krieger**  
Wagon Wheel FSC  
**Alysa Liu**  
David Hicks  
**Phoenix C. Rhodes-Johnson**  
Sandra Rhodes  
**Pat Smith and Lois Todd**  
Chirs Heiser, Laura Kaplan,  
Debbie Stoery  
**IN SUPPORT OF**  
**Lily Gibbs**  
Jeff Gibbs  
**Jason Brown**  
Carol Seaburg  
**Vincent Zhou**  
Qing Wang

## APPOINTMENTS

### Bronze Singles Test Judge

Jeni Crockett-Holme, Charlottesville, Va.; Heidi Gannon, Washington, Mich.; Peggy Grant, Bartlett, Texas; Lisa Kilpatrick, Arvada, Colo.; Stephen Kucera, Bartlesville, Okla.; Jessica Wolenc, Madison, Wis.

### Silver Singles Test Judge

Alyssa Liverette, Charles Town, W.V.; Melissa Mahle, Fairfax, Va.; Cecile Sherlock, Benton, Pa.; Isabelle Yung, Simi Valley, Calif.

### Gold Singles Test Judge

Scott Brody, Minneapolis, Minn.; Sarah Jilbert, Columbus, Ohio; Joy Jin, San Francisco, Calif.; Katty Kauffman, Las Condes, Chile; Eric Reinhart, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Holly Tanner, Centerville, Utah

### Silver Dance Test Judge

Donna Zarro, Burlington, Vt.

### Gold Dance Test Judge

Mary Garwood, Canton, N.Y.; Gloria Lewis, Port Saint Lucie, Fla.; Marianne Sughru, Bridgewater, N.J.

### Certification to Judge International Dance Tests

Danielle MacFarlane, Harley, Ontario, Canada

### Regional Singles/Pairs Competition Judge

Noelle Ghoram, Houston, Texas; Tea Junnila, Johns Creek, Ga.; Katty Kauffman, Las Condes, Chile; Amelia Keene, Henderson, Nev.; Kristofer Ogren, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Eric Reinhart, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Holly Tanner, Centerville, Utah

### Certified 6.0 Singles/Pairs Referee

Jeannette Doney, Roswell, Ga.

### Sectional Singles/Pairs Referee

Carylyn Landt, Alpine, Calif.; Lisa Landon, Colorado Springs, Colo.;

### Apprentice Accountant

Margaret Runde, Glen Mills, Pa.; Marda Strobeck, Edmonds, Wash.

### Certified 6.0 Accountant

Jayne Rendel, Corona, Calif.

### Regional Accountant

Tianna Raught, Phoenix, Ariz.

### Sectional Accountant

Valarie Berger, Peoria, Ariz.

### Level 1 Technical Accountant

John Hebert, Cumming, Ga.; Kimberley Moore, Charlotte, N.C.; Michael Rowland, Raleigh, N.C.

### Level 2 Technical Accountant

Debra Dryburgh, Carrollton, Texas; Tricia Privette, Lenoir City, Tenn.

### Regional Music Coordinator

Tony Chaouch, Lakeville, Minn.; Juan Rios, Hales Corners, Wis.; Michael Steskal, Bloomington, Minn.



# CALENDAR

## MARCH

**21 | 6th Annual Cortland-Ithaca Basic Skills Competition** held in Cortland, NY, sponsored by Cortland FSC. Contact Jenn.kingmac@gmail.com for more information.

**21 | 37th Annual Garren Invitational Competition** held in Troy, NY, sponsored by Hudson-Mohawk FSC. Contact skatehmfsc@gmail.com for more information.

**21 | Challenge Cup Ice Classic** held in Sioux Falls, SD, sponsored by Sioux Falls FSC. Contact director@sffsc.com for more information.

**21 | Philadelphia Areas Figure Skating Championship** held in Warminster, PA, sponsored by Colonial SC of Pennsylvania. Contact kkb91@aol.com for more information.

**22 | Champions 21st Annual Basic Skills Competition** held in Cromwell, CN, sponsored by Champions Learn to Skate. Contact tieshask8@gmail.com for more information.

**22 | Waupun Ice Sculptures Invitational** held in Waupun, WI, sponsored by Waupun FSC. Contact icesk8terk8@yahoo.com for more information.

**20 | North Georgia Skate Classic** held in Cumming, GA, sponsored by Learn to Skate at The Ice. Contact HaveanIceDayCF@aol.com for more information.

**22 | 2020 NEO Elementary School Ice Skating Championships** held in Mentor, OH, sponsored by Mentor Ice Arena Learn to Skate. Contact waitersmr@yahoo.com for more information.

**27-29 | Niagara Invitational Competition and Basic Skills Event** held in Lockport, NY, sponsored by Lockport. Contact dahlers@cornerstoneicearena.com for more information.

**27-29 | 2020 Colonial Classic** held in Chesapeake, VA, sponsored by Tidewater FSC. Contact colonialclassiccomp@gmail.com for more information.

**27-29 | Sugar Skate 2020** held in Sugar Land, TX, sponsored by Texas Gulf Coast FSC. Contact competitionchair@texasgulfcoastfsc.org for more information.

**28 | Learn to Skate USA Team Competition** held in Chandler, AZ, sponsored by Ice Den Chandler. Contact tpatrickson@coyotesice.com for more information.

**28 | BGSC Tuxedo Invitational** held in Bowling Green, OH, sponsored by Bowling Green SC. Contact perabb59@gmail.com for more information.

**28 | Fiesta Skate 2020** held in Kirkland, Washington, sponsored by Sno-King Ice Arena Kirkland. Contact lisa@snokingkirkland.com for more information.

**28-29 | 2020 Albuquerque Open and Super-Skate Compete USA Competition** held in Albuquerque, NM, sponsored by Albuquerque FSC. Contact abqfsc@gmail.com for more information.

**28-29 | 2020 March Mayhem** held in Anaheim, CA, sponsored by Glacier Falls FSC. Contact

russcscott@gmail.com for more information.

**28-29 | Massena Invitational** held in Massena, NY, sponsored by Massena FSC. Contact massena.invitational@gmail.com for more information.

**29 | Bolton's Fun in the Sun Compete USA Competition** held in Bolton, CT, sponsored by Bolton Learn to Skate. Contact anicarr@charter.net for more information.

**29 | The Winner's Circle Compete USA Competition** held in Austin, TX, sponsored by Chaparral Ice Learn to Skate. Contact kathy@chaparralice.com for more information.

## APRIL

**2-5 | Fort Collins Classic 2020** held in Fort Collins, CO, sponsored by Fort Collins FSC. Contact kelly.cann79@gmail.com for more information.

**3-5 | Eastern Iowa Invitational** held in Cedar Rapids, IA, sponsored by Eastern Iowa FSC. Contact eifscia@gmail.com for more information.

**4 | Spring Classic 2020** held in Sherwood, OR, sponsored by Sherwood Ice Arena. Contact allyssa@sherwoodicearena.com.

**4 | Smithfield FSC Compete USA Competition** held in Smithfield, RI, sponsored by Smithfield FSC. Contact dianne.lamontagne@gmail.com for more information.

**4 | Janice Smith Basic Skills Competition** held in Hamburg, NY, sponsored by Skate Great. Contact coachjess51@yahoo.com for more information.

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

**4-5 | North Star Open 2020** held in Westborough, MA, sponsored by North Star FSC. Contact ddavid@northstaricesports.com.

**4-5 | 2020 Powerade State Games of North Carolina** held in Indian Trail, NC, sponsored by Carolinas FSC. Contact poweradestategamesnc@ncsports.org for more information.

**15-19 | 45th Annual Ladybug** held in Flossmoor, IL, sponsored by Glenwood FSC. Contact kramerswanson@att.net for more information.

**17-18 | Skate Bloomington 2020** held in Bloomington, MN, sponsored by FSC of Bloomington. Contact gele0015@umn.edu for more information.

**18 | 2020 Hodag Skate Classic** held in Rhineland, WI, sponsored by Rhinelander FSC. Contact cbrunette33@gmail.com for more information.

**18-19 | Pigtail Classic 2020** held in Springdale, AK, sponsored by Ozark FSC. Contact rkaicesk8@yahoo.com for more information.

**19 | Arctic Basic Skills** held in Canton, MI, sponsored by Skaters Edge. Contact jengoem@comcast.net for more information.

**19 | Princeton Lisa McGraw Webster Spring Classic 2020** held in Princeton, NJ, sponsored by Princeton SC, Inc. Contact princetoncomp@yahoo.com for more information.

**23-26 | 2020 Skate Austin Bluebonnet Open** held in Austin, TX, sponsored by Austin FSC. Contact compchair@afscctx.org for more information.

**23-26 | Skate Vegas 2020** held in Las Vegas, NV, sponsored by Vegas Golden Knights Center of Excellence. Contact SkateVegasCompetition@gmail.com for more information.

**24-25 | 2020 Boise Ice Classic** held in Boise, ID, sponsored by Boise FSC. Contact wee\_esther@hotmail.com for more information.

**24-26 | Spring Fling 2020** held in Strongsville, OH, sponsored by Strongsville SC. Contact sscspringfling@gmail.com for more information.

**25 | Fun in the Sun** held in Kennewick, WA, sponsored by Toyota Arena Skating School. Contact vonrigden@gmail.com for more information.

**25 | Cascade Ice Classic** held in Renton, WA, sponsored by Sno-King Ice Arena Kirkland. Contact lisa@snokingkirkland.com for more information.

**26 | The Long Island Compete USA Championships** held in Hauppauge, NY, sponsored by The Rinx Total Skating Program. Contact yeseniag@therinx.com for more information.

**26 | Atlanta Spring Skate** held in Sandy Springs, GA, sponsored by Atlanta Center Ice Skating Academy. Contact kellybelin2@hotmail.com for more information.

**26 | 11th Annual North Jersey FSC Learn to Skate Competition at Skylands Ice World** held in Stockholm, NJ, sponsored by North Jersey FSC. Contact skate531@hotmail.com for more information.

## MAY

**2 | River City Skating Classic** held in Columbus, GA, sponsored by Columbus Figure Skating Academy. Contact cfsa.president@gmail.com for more information.

**3 | Fond du lac 2020 Compete USA Competition** held in Fond Du Lac, WI, sponsored by Fond Du Lac FSC. Contact angdowidat@yahoo.com for more information.

**3 | Atlanta Spring Skate** held in Sandy Springs, GA, sponsored by Atlanta Center Ice Skating Academy. Contact kellybelin2@hotmail.com for more information.

**8-10 | Saugerties Open** held in Saugerties, NY, sponsored by SC of Saugerties. Contact amberlynnskates@gmail.com for more information.

**3 | Northern Blast 2020** held in Woodridge, IL, sponsored by Northern Ice SC. Contact helen.biggers@gmail.com for more information.

**14-17 | 36th Annual Ann Arbor Springtime Invitational Competition** held in Ann Arbor, MI, sponsored by Ann Arbor FSC. Contact apdoug829@gmail.com for more information.

**14-17 | 2020 Roseville Open and Rosebuds Compete USA Competition** held in Roseville, MN, sponsored by Roseville FSC. Contact quadkell@aol.com for more information.

# GRIEVANCE

## TERESA HUNT ON BEHALF OF HER MINOR DAUGHTER V CEDAR VALLEY FIGURE SKATING CLUB

On June 12, 2019, Theresa Hunt, proceeding on behalf of her minor daughter, submitted a Grievance Statement against the Cedar Valley Figure Skating Club Board of Directors, individually named as Respondents. The Grievant alleged violations of GR 1.03 and retaliation in violation of SafeSport policy for making a written complaint to Respondents about same. Respondents timely submitted a written reply denying the allegations. The parties subsequently submitted additional evidence for consideration. On November 12, 2019, a telephone hearing was held on the Grievance Statement during which all parties were given an opportunity to present their case and to examine and cross-examine witnesses. On December 2, 2019, the Hearing Panel issued a written Statement of Decision finding that the Grievant failed to meet her burden of proof and dismissing the Grievance Statement in its entirety, each side to bear its own fees, costs and expenses.





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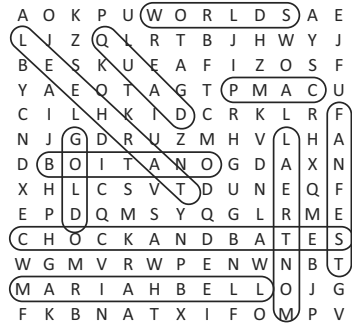
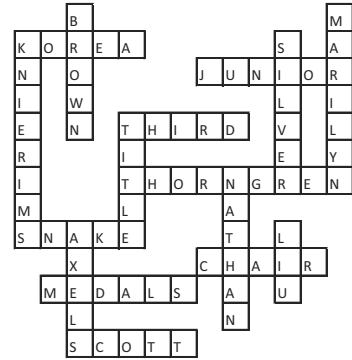
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### PUZZLE ANSWERS FROM PAGES 48-49



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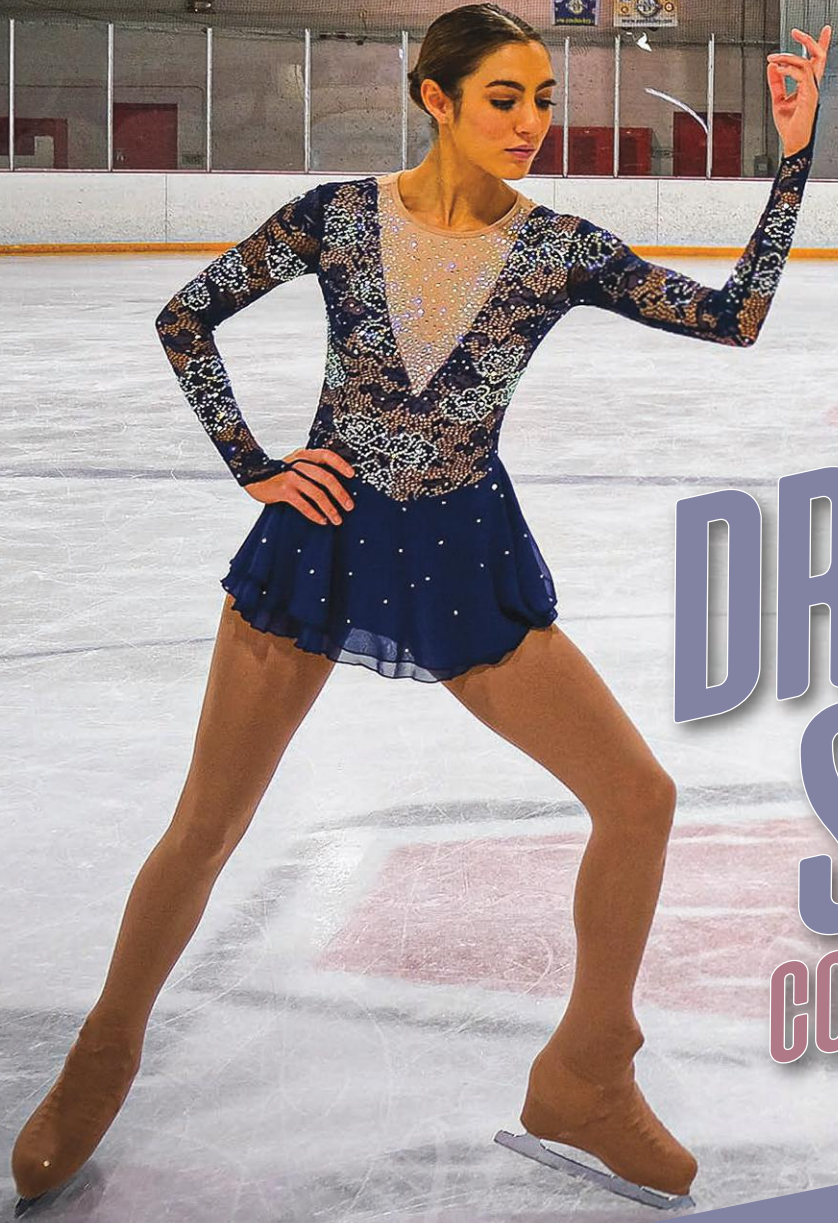
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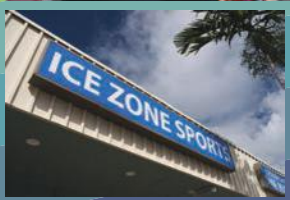
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2020 U.S. WORLD FIGURE SKATING TEAM

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Back row (l-r): Timothy LeDuc, Christopher Knierim, Vincent Zhou, Jason Brown, Nathan Chen, Evan Bates, Zachary Donohue, Jean-Luc Baker  
Front row (l-r): Ashley Cain-Gribble, Alexa Knierim, Bradie Tennell, Mariah Bell, Madison Chock, Madison Hubbell, Kaitlin Hawayek