

# SKATING

JUNE/JULY 2021



## FEELING THE SPIRIT

TEAM USA BRINGS HOME SILVER MEDAL AT WORLD TEAM TROPHY

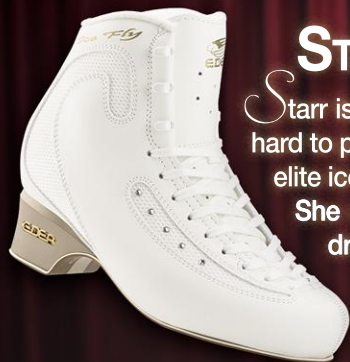






# NOTHING IS GOING TO HOLD YOU BACK

Over time our Dreams change, but Never Give Up on Your Dreams!



## STARR ANDREWS

Starr is an athlete who has worked hard to pursue her dream of being an elite ice skater.

She never gave up on her dream and Starr has not let anything hold her back!

# TEAM USA

Picture by Robin Ritoss



Skates U.S. continued to support and help skaters during 2020, without pausing our business for even a single day.

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## ON THE COVER

The United States earned the silver medal at the World Team Trophy, held April 15-17, in Osaka, Japan. Three-time World champion Nathan Chen led Team USA by winning both segments of the men's event. Team spirit was on full display as U.S. captain Jason Brown fired up his squad with encouragement and support at the season-ending competition. Coverage starts on page 26.

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# ORGANIZERS EXCITED ABOUT HAVING FANS IN THE STANDS

On May 1, I watched the 147th Kentucky Derby on television. Known as “The Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports,” the race lived up to the hype with a down-to-the-wire finish. But when historians look back, this edition of the “Run for the Roses” will be remembered as more than just another great horse race.

Almost 52,000 fans, dressed in their colorful Southern dresses, suit coats and hats, walked through the turnstiles at the venerable Churchill Downs on a perfect spring day to enjoy this American pastime. It was the largest crowd — about 40 percent of capacity — to gather at a U.S. sporting event since the coronavirus pandemic began in the early months of 2020.

The spectacle in Louisville, Kentucky, reminded everyone of what it was like before COVID-19 shut everything down. People were smiling and interacting, embracing this long-awaited opportunity to safely be together again.

For skating fans who tuned in, it also provided a glimpse of what the 2022 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Nashville, Tennessee, and 2021 Skate America in Las Vegas may look like, with spectators on their feet celebrating electric performances and cheering on the top skaters in the country and world.

While no one can predict the future, executive director of the Nashville Sports Council, Scott Ramsey, is optimistic that fans will be able to safely return in force for the 2022 U.S. Championships at the Bridgestone Arena, Jan. 3–9. All-event ticket sales are going extremely well this spring (more than 1,200 sold as of May 4) and there’s an air of excitement already for this Olympic-qualifying competition in Music City. Both the 2022 U.S. Championships and 2021 Skate America are expected to be sold at full capacity, according to Bob Dunlop, senior director of events at U.S. Figure Skating.

Ramsey was the executive director of the 1997 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, which was the first major event held at the new Nashville Arena (now Bridgestone Arena). It was there that the country got introduced to 14-year-old sensation Tara Lipinski, who won the U.S. title, and then a month later, the World title. She went on to claim Olympic gold in 1998.

“There’s a lot of excitement about the event,” Ramsey said. “I think that excitement will continue to build as we move through the spring and then the summer and the summer Olympic Games. As we start opening up the different levels of the ticket sales and do a lot more marketing and promotion, I think

the energy and excitement will be significant. I know our city is ready to host the event again.”

Downtown Nashville has become an epicenter for major events, and Ramsey said U.S. Figure Skating fans are in for a treat.

“Our downtown campus is as good as any in the country in hosting major events,” he said. “From the arena to the hotels to our music venues and restaurants, everything is walkable and compact. We are able to create a real energy and excitement in a few block area.”

Coincidentally, the Bridgestone Arena will celebrate its 25th anniversary with the 2022 U.S. Championships.

Helping lead the charge with local organizers is Olympic champion Scott Hamilton, who resides with his family near Nashville.

Hamilton worked with the Nashville Sports Council during the bid process and is expected to play an active role at the U.S. Championships.

In September 2014, Hamilton partnered with the NHL’s Nashville Predators to open a state-of-the-art facility for skaters. The facility is home to the Scott Hamilton Skating Academy and will serve as a practice venue for the U.S. Championships.

Rex Berman, executive director of the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, is equally optimistic about spectators for 2021 Skate America, scheduled for Oct. 22–24. The Orleans Arena, which hosted the 2021 U.S. Championships (without fans) due to pandemic considerations, will host Skate America for a third consecutive year.

All-session tickets went on sale in May, and Berman and his team are already seeing things return to normal. A cheerleading competition in mid-May was expected to draw 3,000 fans per session. Bigger crowds are also anticipated for Ice Cube’s Big 3 Basketball Tournament and a West Coast CrossFit event at the Orleans Arena.

“I feel Las Vegas has definitely turned the corner on the pandemic,” Berman said. “We have started to see our venues reinvent themselves during the pandemic from hosting closed events, inviting fans back into the venues in a smart and safe way, becoming masters of social distancing, and getting a firm understanding of the dynamics of the pandemic. As we see more and more shows going on sale, I see a bright future for Vegas, and we will come back better than ever.”

*Tom Schwind*

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CYNTHIA SLAWTER PHOTOGRAPHY

ICE BREAKERS

## ALL-SESSION TICKETS FOR U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS ON SALE

All-session tickets for the 2022 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Nashville, Tennessee, are on sale.

The marquee event will be held Jan. 3-9, 2022, and will help determine the 2022 U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team. All junior- and championship-level events will be held at Bridgestone Arena in downtown Nashville, with the Ford Ice Center Bellevue serving as the practice facility.

All-session tickets are available at [www.2022uschampionships.com](http://www.2022uschampionships.com). All-session tickets include admission to all official practices and competitive sessions at Bridgestone Arena, as well as the Skating Spectacular on Jan. 9.

Championship weekend and single-session tickets will go on sale at later dates. For more information, visit [www.2022uschampionships.com](http://www.2022uschampionships.com).



## SKATE AMERICA RETURNS TO LAS VEGAS

2021 Skate America will return to Las Vegas and the Orleans Arena Oct. 22-24, U.S. Figure Skating announced in late April.

Skate America® is traditionally the first of six events in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series, now in its 27th year. The top six finishers in each discipline at the end of the series qualify for the ISU Grand Prix Final.

Skate America® returns for the third consecutive year to this desert oasis. Because of the pandemic, the event in 2020 was held at the Orleans Arena in a bubble environment without spectators. Classified as a domestic event, most of the competitors were from North America or trained in the United States.

NBC and its family of channels, along with Peacock Premium, will air Skate America®. Check the event website at [2021SkateAmerica.com](http://2021SkateAmerica.com) for ticket and schedule information.

## U.S. INTERNATIONAL CLASSICS TO BE HELD AT SC OF BOSTON

The 2021 U.S. International Figure Skating Classic and the 2022 U.S. Synchronized Skating International Classic will take place at The Skating Club of Boston's new facility in Norwood, Massachusetts, U.S. Figure Skating announced in April.

The U.S. International Figure Skating Classic will be held Sept. 15-19. This event was first held in 2012 in Salt Lake City, and has been held each year since, with the exception of 2020. As in previous years, the U.S. International Classic will be held in conjunction with the U.S. Challenge Skate, which is a developmental competition for domestic novice and junior competitors.

The 2022 U.S. Synchronized Skating International Classic will take place Jan. 28-29. The Challenger Series for synchronized skating began in 2019; it gives teams the opportunity to compete at the international level and earn world standing points. The U.S. hosted the California Cup in Irvine, California, during the inaugural year of the series. The event will be held in conjunction with the 2022 Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships.

*The Haydenettes compete at the inaugural California Cup in 2019.*





# DELEGATES APPROVE COMPREHENSIVE BOARD RESTRUCTURING PLAN



Delegates approved all actions of the U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors from the past year, conducted the Board of Directors election and approved new U.S. Figure Skating clubs at the 2021 U.S. Figure Skating Governing Council Annual Meeting. Included in the proceedings was an update of the organization's bylaws, which will make U.S. Figure Skating a stronger and more inclusive organization.

"Delegates overwhelming voted to support changes that continue to reflect our mission and values," U.S. Figure Skating President Anne Cammett said. "Even after 100 years, it is this passion and commitment that continues to move U.S. Figure Skating forward."

In the only contested election of the Board of Directors, incumbent Heather Nemier was re-elected to a fourth one-year term as the Eastern vice president. The remaining officers were elected to an additional one-year term: Midwestern Vice President Kristin Arneson Cutler, Pacific Coast Vice President Janis Engel and Treasurer Troy Goldstein. Kimberley Moore was elected to a first one-year term as secretary.

Also elected to an additional one-year term on the board were group coordinators Lynn Goldman, athlete services; Elise Preston, membership development; and Todd Bromley, technical and officials. Jaclyn Helms

was elected to a first one-year term as administrative/legal group coordinator.

Heather Paige was elected for another term as one of two coaching members on the board. Todd Sand was elected to a first term as the other coaching member. Both will serve one-year terms.

The athlete representatives elected to serve on the Board of Directors were Rachael Flatt, Jenna Longo, Colin McManus and Felicia Zhang. Flatt will also serve as the Athletes Advisory Committee chair for a second consecutive season.

Following are some of the more noteworthy measures approved by the 711 delegates/athletes.

## BYLAWS

The Governing Council approved a comprehensive revision of the association's bylaws, stimulated by a new U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee certification program, 86 percent in favor, 14 against. The revision includes a reconfiguration of the Board of Directors from a constituent-based board to a board of primarily at-large directors. The board will continue to have 15 voting members, but, starting in May 2022, it will have a president, five athlete directors, two independent directors and seven at-large directors. The treasurer, secretary and vice president will be elected by the board mem-

bers from among those persons (other than the president) who are elected by the Governing Council as voting members of the Board of Directors. Most permanent committees will continue to report to their respective group coordinator. Group coordinators will continue to serve on the board as nonvoting members. Finally, term lengths and term limits for all positions were adjusted, moving away from one-year terms to improve succession planning.

A new composition of the Nominating Committee was also approved. Starting in May 2022, the Nominating Committee will consist of one member elected at Governing Council by each section, three athlete members elected by the Athletes Advisory Committee, and three members appointed by the Board of Directors, for a total of nine members.

Effective for the 2022–23 season, all committees within U.S. Figure Skating will have at least 33.3 percent athlete representation, and members of committees will be appointed based on the skill set and experience needed, incorporate geographical representation and be reflective of diversity, instead of being based primarily upon sectional representation.

These changes will help U.S. Figure Skating continue to achieve more diversity, equity and inclusion within its leadership. They will also allow the board to be more

*U.S. Figure Skating officers, l-r, Troy Goldstein, treasurer; Janis Engel, Pacific Coast vice president; Kristin Arneson Cutler, Midwestern vice president; and Heather Nemier, Eastern vice president; along with (not pictured) Anne Cammett, president; and Gretchen Bonnie, secretary, conducted Governing Council business from U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado. They were connected via Zoom with more than 700 member and athlete delegates across the country.*







*A U.S. Figure Skating working group, with significant support from the vice presidents, spent nearly a year researching and drafting a board restructuring plan that aligns with the new certification program of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee. Pictured are (l-r) Rachael Flatt, Heather Neimer, Kelly Vogtner, Karen Terry Perreault, Janis Engel and Kristin Arneson Cutler. Not pictured is John Anderson.*

strategic and react more quickly to the association's ever-changing needs.

Dave Patterson, associate director of National Governing Body Governance at the USOPC, commended U.S. Figure Skating's leadership group for its exhaustive and thorough work to bring the organization into compliance with the new USOPC guidelines.

"I work with 54 other colleague NGBs and I refer to the work that U.S. Figure Skating has done as best in class and something that they should emulate," Patterson said.

## TESTS

Notwithstanding the bylaws revision, the biggest changes came from the Tests Committee, which approved virtual testing as a permanent option for U.S. Figure Skating clubs and members. The permanent requirements will closely follow the pilot program that has been in place since Jan. 1.

The Tests Committee also approved a change to the 28-day waiting period for tests marked "retry." For moves in the field, pre-juvenile and below free skate tests, adult bronze and below free skate tests, adaptive free skate tests, pattern dance, adult pair, adult partnered free dance tests and all figure tests, the waiting period is reduced to 14 days, beginning with the 2021–22 season. For standard free skate, pair and partnered free dance tests at the juvenile level or higher, and adult free skate tests at the silver level or higher, the waiting period is reduced to one day, beginning with the 2021–22 season.

The Tests Committee also updated the order of the adult pre-bronze moves-in-the-field test, making the spirals the third element and the forward and backward crossovers the fifth and final element. This will make it easier for test chairs to run adult pre-bronze and preliminary tests concurrently.

Finally, effective July 1, 2021, pre-preliminary and adult pre-bronze moves-in-the-field and free skate tests, preliminary partnered and solo pattern dance tests, and adult pre-bronze partnered free dance tests will be eligible to pass with honors.

## SINGLES

Following the conclusion of the 2022 U.S. Figure Skating Championship Series presented by Toyota, the time of the preliminary boys and girls well-balanced free skate and free skate test will increase to 2:00 +/- 10 seconds, and the step sequence will change from a half-ice requirement to a full-ice requirement.

## SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

The Synchronized Development and Technical Committee revised the competitive pipeline for synchronized skating to allow for more flexibility at each level with regard to the age of athletes and a gradual increase of the required test levels.

## ADAPTIVE SKATING

The Adaptive Skating Subcommittee added both testing (moves in the field and free skate) and nonqualifying competition and Compete USA Skate United tracks for skaters with disabilities, to increase equitable programming opportunities. The Skating Accommodation Memorandum (S.A.M.) offers skaters with disabilities the option to apply for and receive reasonable accommodations, to support skater development and advancement within free skate and moves-in-the-field testing and nonqualifying and Compete USA competitions (6.0 judging only).

## ADULT SKATING

The Adult Skating Committee updated adult competition rules to restrict high-level skaters from entering adult bronze pairs and



adult pre-bronze and adult bronze partnered dance events. The committee also updated the names of the adult showcase events and changed the rules to allow half flip and half Lutz jumps to count as jump elements in adult pre-bronze well-balanced free skate events.

## ATHLETES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Athletes Advisory Committee updated the rules regarding qualifying for the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Those who qualify based on the results from a previous season will no longer need to achieve a minimum total element score.

These changes represent only a portion of what was approved by the Governing Council on May 1. For full details on all approved changes, please visit [usfigureskating.org/about/rules](https://usfigureskating.org/about/rules).

*Officials with anniversaries are recognized on page 61.*

Two clubs were granted full club status at Governing Council: CN Figure Skating Academy in Middleton, Massachusetts; and Tacoma FSC in Tacoma, Washington. Six other clubs were granted provisional status: The Center Skating Academy in Marlborough, Massachusetts; District Impact SC in Washington, D.C.; Dubuque FSC in Dubuque, Iowa; Go4Gold Shakopee Skating Academy in Prior Lake, Minnesota; Great Lakes FSC in Glen Ellyn, Illinois; and Piney Orchard FSC in Odenton, Maryland.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In celebration of the 100-year anniversary of U.S. Figure Skating, SKATING magazine will take a look back at the people and events that shaped each decade in the 10 issues of 2021. I would like to credit the late Ben Wright, whose book titled *Skating in America: The 75th Anniversary History of the United States Figure Skating Association*, served as an invaluable resource for this project. Wright, who is in the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame and a former president of U.S. Figure Skating, was the association's chief historian until his death in November 2019. I would also like to thank Jim Hines for his copy-editing eye and his extremely helpful books on figure skating history.

# U.S. LADIES TAKE WORLD BY STORM, ON AND OFF THE ICE

BY BARB REICHERT

If you were skating in the 1970s, you likely came to the rink wearing bell-bottom jeans and platform shoes. Depending on your music taste, the drive over featured the sounds of the Jackson 5, Simon & Garfunkel, Rod Stewart or the Bee Gees. If you were the one driving, it cost you about 50 cents for a gallon of leaded gas for your car, which most definitely was built in America.

The decade that brought us *Star Wars*, the personal computer, video games and — love it or hate it — disco, the 1970s was an era of cultural change on and off the ice. And it was packed with skating stars.

Janet Lynn, Dorothy Hamill and Linda Fratianne were household names as figure skating on television entered its second decade. While Peggy Fleming's ice skating TV specials enamored fans and dominated primetime ratings, Lynn, Hamill and Fratianne were leaving their marks on the ice.

At the 1972 Olympic Winter Games in Sapporo, Japan, Lynn gave the skating world a seismic nudge. Austrian Trixi Schubas' dominance in compulsory figures ensured her the gold medal even before the free skate portion (in which she finished seventh), prompting

outrage from a television audience that believed Lynn deserved to win after a beautiful free skate. Lynn, fourth after figures, earned the bronze.

Lynn's performance and ire of the public were contributing factors in the ISU's decision to introduce a short program and decrease the value of figures. It would be 17 more years until figures were dropped in ISU competitions.

Lynn also earned two World medals, two North American Championships medals (including gold) and five consecutive U.S. titles (1969 to 1973). In 1973, she signed a three-year, \$1.46 million deal with Ice Follies, making her the highest-paid female athlete in the world at the time.

Hamill's contributions to the sport were both in substance and style.

She and coach Carlo Fassi created the Hamill camel, a camel spin followed by a sit spin. A technical and graceful skater, she was the last woman to win an Olympic title (1976) without a triple jump. Hamill famously brought a new look to the ice and the nation: a short wedge haircut created by a New York City hairdresser to the stars named

Yusuke Suga. Paired with her oversized, chunky glasses that she wore sometimes for figures and off the ice, she was dubbed "America's sweetheart" by the media.

Hamill, the 1976 World champion and two-time World silver medalist, won three consecutive U.S. titles (1974–76). At the height of her celebrity, she signed a two-year contract with Ice Capades for \$1.75 million, making her the world's highest-paid female athlete. Her \$300,000 contract with Clairol for its Short & Sassy Conditioner stipulated that 25 cents from every bottle sold would be donated to U.S. Figure Skating's Memorial Fund, of which she had been a recipient.

Fratianne left her mark as the first woman to complete two different triple jumps (toe loop and Salchow) in her free skate at the 1976 U.S. Championships, and she succeeded Hamill as the 1977 World champion. She was an on-ice fashion icon, wearing glamorous costumes by Hollywood designer Bob Mackie that favored beads, sequins and chiffon. The look lives on today.

The three women followed in Fleming's footsteps, making regular appearances on "The Mike Douglas Show," having cameo

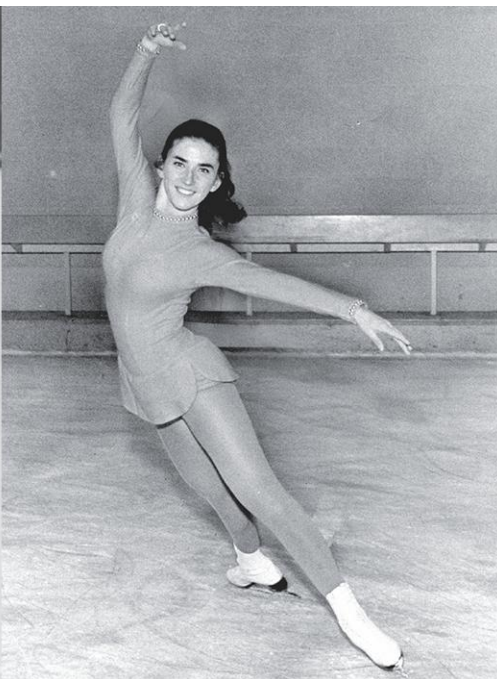
**1976 U.S. Olympic Team, back row (l-r) Olympic team managers Dr. Hugh Graham and Dr. Franklin Nelson; Linda Fratianne, Wendy Burge, Alice Cook, Bill Fauver, Susan Kelley, Andrew Stroukoff, Judi Genovesi, Kent Weigle; World team leaders Paul George and Charles DeMore; front row (l-r) David Santee, Tai Babilonia, Randy Gardner, Dorothy Hamill, Jim Millns, Colleen O'Connor and Terry Kubicka**







*Charlie Tickner secured the first U.S. World men's title in eight years when he took home the gold in 1978. He went on to claim the bronze medal at the 1980 Olympics.*



*Julie Lynn Holmes captured two World medals and competed at the 1972 Olympics.*



*The great pairs team of JoJo Starbuck and Ken Shelley won two World medals and three U.S. titles, helping pave the way for 1979 World titlists Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner.*

roles on TV programs, and popping up across the media continuum in what had become an American lovefest for figure skaters.

And there was plenty of spotlight to be shared.

In 1974, Tai Babilonia, 13, and Randy Gardner, 15, became the youngest U.S. pairs team at the World Championships. As their star rose on the ice, culminating with the 1979 World title, the five-time U.S. champions (1976–80) were dazzling off the ice as well. With a big smile and personality, Babi-

*Colleen O'Connor and Jim Millns earned a bronze medal at the inaugural Olympic ice dance competition in 1976.*



lonia (the first multiracial athlete to win a World figure skating title) and the handsome Gardner caught Hollywood's eye and played multiple roles for both TV and film.

Back on the ice, America continued to produce strong competitors.

Ice dancers Judy Schwomeyer and Jim Sladky earned four World medals and the 1971 North American Championships title. When they ended their run of five consecutive U.S. ice dance titles (1968–72), it opened the doors for Colleen O'Connor and Jim Millns, who earned the bronze in the inaugural Olympic ice dance competition in 1976.

Charlie Tickner, the 1978 World champion, closed out the decade still dominating the U.S. field and holding off a young upstart named Scott Hamilton. At the 1976 Games, Terry Kubicka performed the first and last legal backflip in an international competition. While the crowd loved it, the ISU banned it. Kubicka was also the first American skater to land five different triple jumps in competition.

Three-time U.S. champions and 1971–72 World bronze medalists JoJo Starbuck and Ken Shelley became the archetypal pairs team, laying the groundwork for Babilonia and Gardner. Starbuck had her moments of TV time, including doing commercials for Cup O' Noodles.

## OFF THE ICE

In addition to the many athletic successes, the 1970s proved an important time for the organization.

In November 1971, the U.S. Figure Skating Association celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gala exhibition held at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Almost every former champion attended, joined by the Ann Arbor Hockettes Precision Team and the 1971 U.S. World Team. As a fundraiser for the Memorial Fund, the Franklin Mint struck a keepsake 50th anniversary medal featuring the USFSA shield and the four figure skating disciplines (despite the singles skaters appearing together).

SKATING magazine celebrated its 50-year anniversary in 1973 and continues to be one of the oldest periodicals in continuous publication.

In 1976, the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame was founded, which initially was not limited to Americans. The inaugural class featured eight Americans and 13 international inductees.

Changes were afoot for the organization, too. On the heels of the U.S. Olympic Committee's move to Colorado Springs in 1978, the U.S. Figure Skating Association purchased land adjacent to The Broadmoor hotel and moved its headquarters from Boston to Colorado Springs in 1979. A gala ceremony to celebrate the feat was emceed by Dick Button at The Broadmoor.





U.S. Figure Skating headquarters began operations in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Sept. 10, 1979.

### U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS IN THE 1970s

- 1972 | Janet Lynn, bronze
- 1976 | Dorothy Hamill, gold; Colleen O'Connor/Jim Millns, bronze

### U.S. WORLD MEDALISTS IN THE 1970s

- 1970 | Tim Wood, gold; Judy Schwomeyer/Jim Sladky, silver; Julie Lynn Holmes, bronze
- 1971 | Julie Lynn Holmes, silver; JoJo Starbuck/Ken Shelley, bronze; Judy Schwomeyer/Jim Sladky, bronze
- 1972 | Janet Lynn, bronze; JoJo Starbuck/

Ken Shelley, bronze; Judy Schwomeyer/Jim Sladky, bronze

- 1973 | Janet Lynn, silver
- 1974 | Dorothy Hamill, silver
- 1975 | Dorothy Hamill, silver; Colleen O'Connor/Jim Millns, silver
- 1976 | Dorothy Hamill, gold; Colleen O'Connor/Jim Millns, bronze
- 1977 | Linda Fratianne, gold; Tai Babilonia/Randy Gardner, bronze
- 1978 | Charlie Tickner, gold; Linda Fratianne, silver; Tai Babilonia/Randy Gardner, bronze
- 1979 | Linda Fratianne, gold; Tai Babilonia/Randy Gardner, gold



The Franklin Mint created a keepsake 50th anniversary medal for the United States Figure Skating Association's celebration in 1971.

### A LOOK BACK AT THE 1970s

The '70s continued the social activism of the '60s, with many "radical" ideas — like environmental protection and gender equality — gaining acceptance. By the end of the decade, disco — the infectious dance music that drove the film *Saturday Night Fever* — had popularized all-night discotheque dancing.

**Around the nation:** Oil-producing Arab nations placed an embargo on the Western countries that had supported Israel in its 1973 war with Egypt and Syria; by 1974, the price of oil quadrupled to nearly \$12 a barrel. The resultant price controls and rationing led to alternate days to buy fuel and long lines at the pump.

**In sports:** Billie Jean King defeated former world tennis champion and self-professed male chauvinist Bobby Riggs. The 1973 "Battle of the Sexes" match was televised nationally and included the antics of Riggs, who entered the stadium in a rickshaw

drawn by bikini-clad models.

**At the movies:** Released in 1970 and starring George C. Scott as the arrogant World War II general, *Patton* took home seven Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Director (Franklin J. Schaffner) and Best Leading Actor, at the 43rd Academy Awards.

**The cost of living:** In 1970, a single-family home, bilevel with four bedrooms, cost \$51,900; the percentage of households with a telephone had increased to 87 percent. The average annual salary was \$7,564, and minimum wage was \$1.60 an hour. A new Dodge was \$2,652, and a gallon of gas cost 36 cents. Boys wore permanent press shirts at \$3.75 for two; a girl's sunsuit cost between \$4 and \$7.98.

**Price of skates:** In 1970, a pair of custom boots from Harlick and Co. of California cost between \$250 and \$300; stock boots were about 40

percent less. The company was founded in 1935 by Louis Harlick. Skilled maker of custom footwear, Harlick skates have been worn by such luminaries as Carol Heiss, Skippy Baxter, Dick Button, Hayes Jenkins and Richard Dwyer.

**The cost of other items in:**

	1960	1970	1980
Daily newspaper	15¢	25¢	25¢
Postage stamp	8¢	20¢	29¢
Hershey Bar	10¢	25¢	45¢
Loaf of bread	34¢	50¢	89¢
Kellogg's Corn Flakes	38¢	99¢	\$1.99
Theater ticket	\$1	\$2.50	\$3.75
Pound of coffee	76¢	\$1	\$2.45
Dozen eggs	39¢	83¢	89¢
Recreational skates	\$40.95	\$69.88	\$99.99
Bicycle	\$46.88	\$40.95	\$69.88

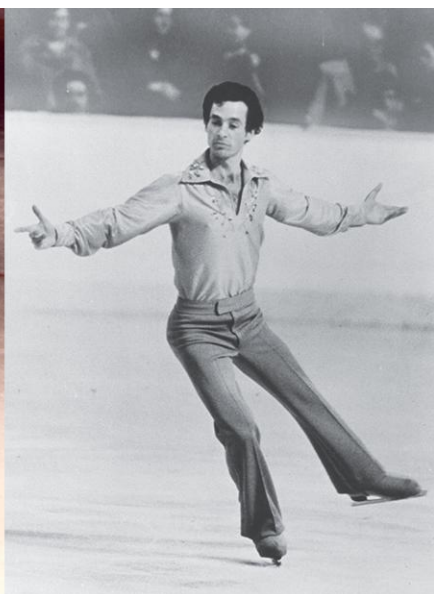




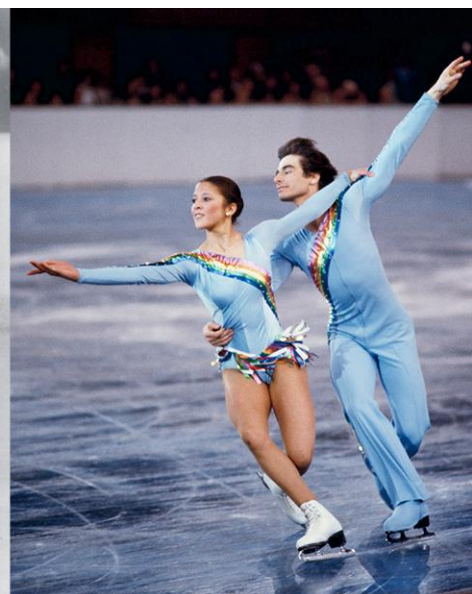
Dorothy Hamill



Linda Fratianne



Charlie Tickner



Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner

## HAMILL, FRATIANNE, TICKNER, BABILONIA AND GARDNER lead U.S. skating charge during decade

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The articles on America's World and Olympic champions for U.S. Figure Skating's 100-year Centennial Celebration are abridged by Dr. James Hines from those included in his *Historical Dictionary of Figure Skating*.

### DOROTHY STUART HAMILL

Dorothy Hamill, one of America's best-known and most popular skaters, capped her eligible career in 1976 with a third U.S. title, an Olympic title and a World title. Her coaches included Otto Gold, Gustave Lussi, and Carlo and Christa Fassi. While still a junior skater, she introduced the layover camel sit spin that bears her name, the "Hamill camel," and it foretold the artistry that has always been associated with her. Hamill's youthful persona thrilled audiences, leading young girls to copy her wedge-cut hair style, typically called the Dorothy Hamill haircut. Her popularity as an eligible skater resulted in a lucrative contract with Ice Capades, and her fame continued to soar as she enjoyed an unusually long professional career including shows and professional competitions. She was a mainstay with Champions on Ice for many years.

### LINDA SUE FRATIANNE

Linda Fratianne alternated World titles with Anett Pöttsch of the German Democratic Republic during the four years leading up to and including the 1980 Olympic Winter Games at Lake Placid, New York. Fratianne won in odd-numbered years, 1977 and 1979,

Pöttsch in even-numbered years, 1978 and 1980. Fratianne was a roller skater before taking up ice skating at age 9. In her first year as a senior, 1975, she placed seventh at the U.S. Championships. A year later, she was the silver medalist, which resulted in a berth on the 1976 World and Olympic teams. She placed fifth and eighth. World and Olympic efforts for her last four competitive years resulted in one bronze, two silver and two gold medals. Fratianne was coached throughout her career by Frank Carroll. She was the first of his students to become a World champion. Her professional career included 10 years with Disney on Ice.

### CHARLES F. TICKNER

Charlie Tickner, the U.S. champion from 1977 through 1980, competed at the World Championships each of those years, winning the title in 1978. It was an interesting result. He placed third in the compulsory figures and second in the combined short program and free skating, but the other leading competitors, Jan Hoffmann of East Germany and Robin Cousins of Great Britain, had major deficiencies in one of the three parts. His Olympic effort, in 1980, resulted in a bronze medal behind Cousins and Hoffmann. His coaches were Wally and Norma Sahlin. Tickner was an all-around athlete, a scratch golfer and a fine tennis player. Upon turning professional, Tickner toured for a short time with Ice Capades and with the World Cup Champions On Ice tour in the 90s. He went on to coach and is an official.

### TAI REINA BABILONIA AND RANDY GARDNER

Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner were paired together by Mabel Fairbanks in 1967. Neither of them ever had another partner. By the 1971 season, their probable success internationally was foreseen, and they began training with coach John Nicks. At their first U.S. Championships as juniors in 1973, they placed first. As seniors, their record includes second place twice, 1974 and 1975, followed by five consecutive titles, 1976 to 1980. At the World Championships beginning in 1974, they placed 10th twice, fifth once and third twice before winning the title in 1979. At the Olympic Winter Games in 1976, they were fifth. Disappointment for them and their American fans came at the Lake Placid Games of 1980. The previous year they had won the World title when Irina Rodnina and Alexander Zaitsev, the six-time and reigning World champions, did not compete owing to the birth of Rodnina's child. Babilonia and Gardner's fans wondered whether the talented pair could defeat figure skating's most successful pair, but an earlier injury suffered by Gardner recurred at a practice session. They had to withdraw, and that marked the end of their eligible career. As professionals, Babilonia and Gardner toured with Ice Capades for four years and with Champions on Ice for two years. They skated in many shows, entered professional competitions and became World Professional champions in 1985.



# JANET LYNN: RADIANT INSPIRATION

BY RYAN STEVENS

Olympic and World champion John Curry of Great Britain spoke glowingly about Janet Lynn when he presented her with *American Skating World* magazine's Skater of the Year award in 1982.

"Janet has refined many skating movements, steps, spins and jumps to a level beyond even that of textbook standards," said Curry, known for his own artistic and technical greatness. "After years of waiting, I recently had the opportunity to work with Janet, and I can tell you that all of that natural grace and beauty is backed up by an enormous amount of hard work, unwavering dedication and will. On behalf of all skaters, I would like to thank Janet Lynn for your radiant inspiration."

Lynn was introduced to skating in Chicago at the age of 2. Her father, a drugstore owner, brought her along to skate with a Cub Scout pack he volunteered with. A year later, her parents enrolled her in Michael Kirby's studio skating school. Her first performance was in an Easter-themed group number in the school's carnival, sporting a floppy bonnet and carrying a straw basket with flowers.

Lynn's skating blossomed at the Wagon Wheel Figure Skating Club under coach Slavka Kohout. She passed her first test in 1960 and, within four years, became the youngest woman in America to pass her eighth test. She made her national debut at the age of 9, placing 10th in the novice event at the 1963 U.S. Championships.

In 1966, she won the U.S. junior title. Just two years later, Lynn won the bronze medal in the senior event at the U.S. Championships behind Peggy Fleming and Tina Noyes. Her success earned her a spot on the 1968 Olympic and World teams. She finished in the top 10 at both events, despite having no international experience.

In the years that followed, Lynn won five consecutive U.S. titles, the 1969 North American title, two medals at the World Championships, and the Olympic bronze

medal at the 1972 Games in Sapporo, Japan. She became a superstar in Japan and a celebrity in her hometown of Rockford, Illinois, where a giant billboard sign after one of her victories read, "Congratulations, Janet. We're proud of you."

At the height of Lynn's success, the media made a concerted effort to manufacture a rivalry between Lynn and her chief competi-

tor, signing a contract with the Ice Follies worth more \$1 million. At the time, she was the highest-paid professional female athlete in the world.

She starred with Curry in the television special "The Snow Queen: A Skating Ballet" and appeared in commercials for Kodak, Rockford's Central National Bank and a Japanese soft drink company.

Lynn achieved great success in professional competitions, winning the World Professional Championships in Maryland, the International Professional Figure Skating Festival in Tokyo and Pro-Skate events in Toronto, Vancouver and New York. Despite her successes, she admitted in a 1982 interview in *The Globe And Mail*, "I never liked the attitude that one has to develop to do well in competition. I think that having other interests does help, gives you dimension in being able to skate."

Skaters with talent so rare and special that they are universally beloved by their peers are few and far between, but Lynn was one of them. During many of her performances as a professional, fellow skaters would come running out of the dressing room to the boards to watch her perform. Her musical interpretation was second to none, and the joy she exuded was sincere.

In a 1975 interview for *Christian Life* magazine, Lynn told reporter Jan Franzen, "I'm human. I don't know how to say this without sounding

puffed up, but people have a tendency to, well, idolize me. They always expect me to be this or do that and to be a holy Christian. But I'm just like anybody else."

In 1990, Lynn was the first figure skater inducted into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame. She was inducted to the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 1994 and the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2001. A woman of great faith who prioritized family over fame and fortune, she is remembered today as one of the greatest artists the sport has ever seen.



Janet Lynn

tors, Canada's Karen Magnussen and Austria's Trixi Schuba.

In reality, the trio were good friends ... and so were Lynn's and Magnussen's coaches. An inspired free skater, Lynn had the unlucky timing of competing against Schuba — who was dubbed "the human scribe" — at a time when school figures were worth 50 percent of a skater's overall score. Lynn's difficult jumps and masterful interpretation of Claude Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun" just couldn't bridge the gap.

Lynn turned professional at the age of



# 'THE GARDEN GALA'

## USFSA celebrates 50 years in 1971

BY RYAN STEVENS

In 1971, there was plenty to celebrate. Just 10 years after the Sabena Airlines crash that stole a generation of America's brightest stars, coaches and officials, American figure skating had rebounded. At the World Championships in Lyon, France, all but one U.S. entry placed in the top 10, and Julie Lynn Holmes, JoJo Starbuck and Ken Shelley, and Judy Schwomeyer and Jim Sladky brought home medals. At the final North American Championships in Peterborough, Ontario, Americans secured the gold in men's and pairs skating, and swept the podium in ice dance for the first time since 1955.

However, the most important celebration that year had more to do with history than medals, as 1971 marked the 50th anniversary of the United States Figure Skating Association.

To celebrate the organization's first 50 years, SKATING magazine published a special edition in June. Seven living USFSA presidents (Hank Beatty, Harry N. Keighley, H. Kendall Kelley, F. Ritter Shumway, John R. Shoemaker, Spencer E. Cram and Frederick C. LeFevre) and one soon-to-be president (Benjamin T. Wright) contemplated the changes in the sport since World War II. There were also special pieces from champion skaters, sportswriters and judges. Dick Button penned a particularly fascinating series of remembrances.

The USFSA also honored its past and championed its future by organizing "Champions on Ice," an all-star gala exhibition at Madison Square Garden on Nov. 29, 1971. This show, later broadcast on ABC with commentary by Button as "The Garden Gala," drew a crowd of more than 8,700 spectators.



JoJo Starbuck and Ken Shelley

Ticket prices ranged from \$3 to \$6.

Champions spanning the decades appeared in the production. Theresa Weld Blanchard, the first U.S. ladies champion and first American skater to win an Olympic medal in 1920, sat on a sleigh while John Misha Petkevich gave a special performance in tribute to her achievements.

Thirty-seven years after winning her title, 1934 U.S. champion Suzanne Davis King, a 59-year-old grandmother, performed a beautiful solo to music from the film *Tea For Two*. Dr. Tenley Albright, the first American woman to win the Olympic gold medal, in 1956, gave her first public performance in over a decade, bringing down the house with a stylish solo set to the theme from *The Pink Panther*. A surgeon by day, Albright burned the midnight oil practicing for the show at a Boston rink between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m.

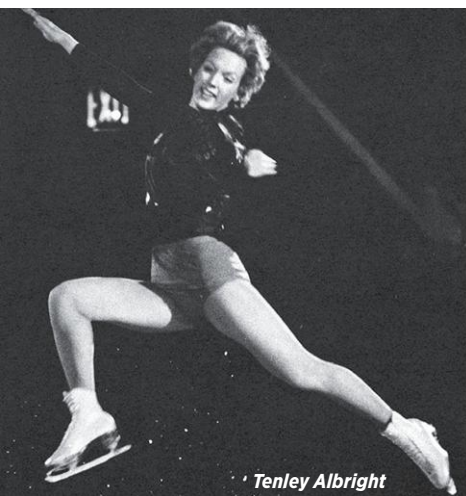
In a rare trio performance, Olympic champions Hayes Alan Jenkins (1956), Carol Heiss Jenkins (1960) and David Jenkins (1960) shared the ice. It was Hayes' first performance since 1958. The Jenkinses were joined by World champion Tim Wood, World medalists Roger Turner, Yvonne Sherman Tutt, Gary Visconti, Cynthia and Ron Kauffman, and Sonya (Klopfer) Dunfield and U.S. champions Robin Lee, Monty Hoyt and Joan Tozzer Spalding.

The entire U.S. team performed — Janet Lynn, Holmes, Starbuck and Shelley, Schwomeyer and Sladky, Petkevich, Melissa and Mark Militano, Suna Murray, Anne and Harvey Millier, Barbara Brown and Doug Berndt, and Mary Karen Campbell and Johnny Johns. In awe of the sheer number of figure skating champions in one place at one time, Dunfield poetically told a reporter from *The New York Times*, "I hear voices from the past, and I turn around to see who's talking."

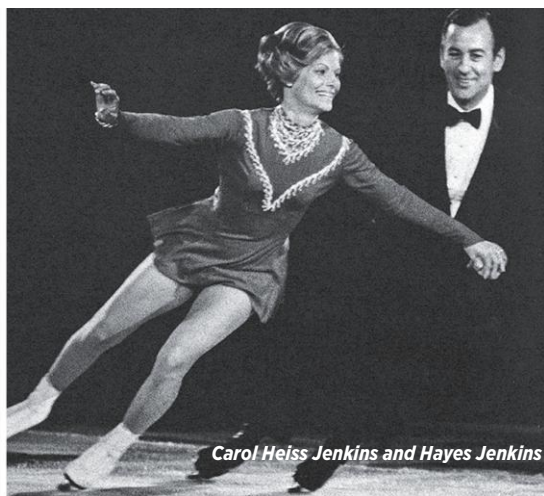
A report in SKATING noted, "This was not the usual kind of show skating we have seen over and over again. We saw skating presented simply, authoritatively and classically by the greatest, most talented, young skating athletes of today ... and yesterday."

Past met present to an extent perhaps not been seen before or since ... all in the name of raising money for the Memorial Fund. As a result of the show's success, all 146 competitors at the 1972 U.S. Championships in Long Beach, California, received \$150, which today is equal to about \$1,000.

That reverence to the past and celebration of the present and future continues today, with the Memorial Fund serving as a beacon of hope for future champions and a legacy of those who perished in the crash.



Tenley Albright



Carol Heiss Jenkins and Hayes Jenkins



# COLD WAR CAMEL SPINS: FLEMING VISITS THE SOVIET UNION

BY RYAN STEVENS

Peggy Fleming's winning performance at the 1968 Olympic Winter Games in Grenoble, France, wasn't only an incredible moment in the world of sports, it was a monumental moment in television history.

Color television sales spiked dramatically in America in the 1960s. In 1964, only 1.61 million American households owned a color television set. By 1968, that number rose to a whopping 13.7 million. Fleming's golden moment was one of the first times the American public saw figure skating "live, in color, via satellite" thanks to the coverage of ABC.

After winning her third consecutive World title in Geneva, Fleming turned professional and broke new ground in the skating world as the first American skater to capitalize on their Olympic success by starring in a series of grand television variety specials.

The first, "Here's Peggy Fleming," aired in primetime in November 1968. Choreographed by 1960 Olympic champion Bob Paul, the broadcast featured appearances by Hollywood icons Gene Kelly and Richard Harris. In subsequent years, the Bob Banner-produced specials "Peggy Fleming at Madison Square Garden," "Timex Presents Peggy Fleming at Sun Valley" and "To Europe With Love" drew huge ratings. Two of the first four specials won Emmy Awards.

However, it was Fleming's fifth and final color television special that broke the most ground. In the height of the Cold War, on Oct. 28, 1973, "Peggy Fleming Visits the Soviet Union" was simultaneously colorcast in the United States, Canada and the Soviet Union.

The production marked the first time an American crew filmed an entertainment special in the Soviet Union. In order to obtain permission to film behind the Iron Curtain, Dick Foster and Bob Manner had to arrange a special meeting with the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers For Television And Radio the year prior.

Upon arriving in Russia, NBC shot

60,000 feet of tape in 27 hours, contending with an extreme language barrier. Much of the communication was done in German, as crew members on both sides didn't know each other's language and had to find common ground.

Another challenge was the extreme temperatures in the many skating scenes filmed outdoors. The average temperature was 13 degrees below zero, with one scene on the Bay of Finland filmed in 17-below

*The Dipatch* noted the historical significance of this production and its countless "firsts."

The first:

- Co-production of an entertainment special by an American company and the USSR
- Filming of an American star performing in the Moscow Circus and with the Moscow Ice Ballet
- Filming of the Kirov Ballet for United States television

- American and Soviet cameramen working jointly on an entertainment production
- Filming for the United States TV of the Moscow Puppet Theatre
- Filming in a USSR recording studio
- United States TV production ever scored in the USSR under the direction of an American conductor and using the Soviet Television and Radio Symphony Orchestra

- TV special to be telecast simultaneously in both the United States and the USSR (same day and local time)

- TV filming within the Palace of Catherine the Great
- Filming of a musical production number on the frozen Bay of Finland

- Filming of the original Andreyev Balalaika Orchestra for Western television
- Soviets scheduled special performances for the exclusive purpose of filming portions of this special

"The American crew was very relaxed," Fleming said in 1973.

"They took their work seriously, but they had fun. The Russians were very businesslike, very tight. But after they started working together, they relaxed and got to be real people. It was a wonderful thing to see."

Americans and Soviets getting along swimmingly in the height of The Cold War? It seems only fitting that the universal language of figure skating was what brought them together.



weather with harsh winds. On July 13, 1973, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* noted that during filming, "Miss Fleming dropped her heavy overcoat, rose up on the toes of her skates and suddenly let out a piercing scream as the bitter cold closed in on her. A second or two later, however, she was gliding, twirling and leaping across the ice, smiling a bright defiance to the elements."

The Aug. 30, 1974, edition of





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## 1970s TIMELINE

COMPILED BY RYAN STEVENS

- **1970:** The first “Evening with Champions” show was held, with proceeds going to the Jimmy Fund of Boston. This fundraiser, conceived by John Misha Petkevich while a student at Harvard University, has raised thousands of dollars for the charity over the years. The first show was emceed by Dick Button and featured performances by Janet Lynn, Scott Ethan Allen, and Judy Schwomeyer and Jim Sladky.
- **1971:** The final North American Championships were held in Peterborough, Ontario.
- **1972:** Michelle McCladdie and Richard Ewell made history as the first people of color to win a gold medal in pairs skating at the U.S. Championships. Ewell won the junior men’s event at the 1970 U.S. Championships, making him the first person of color to win national titles in both singles and pairs.
- **1972:** Despite a fall, Janet Lynn won the free skate at the 1972 Olympics Games in Sapporo, Japan. Her inspiring performance earned her a loyal Japanese fan base (they called her Subaruashi which translates to “magnificent.”)
- **1972:** JoJo Starbuck and Ken Shelley began a long and successful professional career, joining the Ice Capades. They started skating together as youngsters in 1959. Under the watchful eye of John Nicks, they won three consecutive U.S. pairs titles, the final North American title in 1971 and two medals at the World Championships. Shelley competed in both singles and pairs at the 1972 Olympics — the first American to do so at the Games since 1948.
- **1973:** The first Skate Canada International competition was held in Calgary. America’s representatives were Terry Kubicka, Juli McKinstry, and Ann and Harvey Millier.
- **1973:** The ISU first included the “short program with compulsory moves” for singles skaters in its championships. The number of school figures was reduced from six to three, and they were reduced from 50 percent to 40 percent of a skater’s total score, with the short program counting for 20 percent and free skating for 40 percent. This made it harder for figure geniuses like Austrian Trixi Schuba to win regardless of their placements in free skating ... and would make the sport more comprehensible to television audiences.
- **1973:** Dick Button staged the \$100,000 International Professional Figure Skating Festival in Tokyo, a precursor to the World Professional Championships. Americans Ronnie Robertson and Janet Lynn won the singles events.
- **1974:** The USFSA’s annual income and

expenses exceed \$300,000 and there were more than 30,000 registered skaters. Membership more than doubled from 10 years prior.

- **1974:** Jimmy Demogines of Pacoima, California, was the first American skater documented to have executed a triple flip in competition, at the 1974 Eastern Great Lake Championships in Troy, Ohio. Demogines won the silver medal in the junior men’s event at the 1970 U.S. Championships, and was the first Greek American skater to win a medal at nationals.
- **1974:** Terry Kubicka was the first American skater to land the triple Lutz in competition, at the U.S. Championships in Providence, Rhode Island.
- **1975:** Fourteen-year-old Priscilla Hill was the first American woman to land a triple loop at the autumn Prague Skate in Czechoslovakia. Three years later, only eight women were doing the jump in international competition. Four of them were American.
- **1975:** At the World Championships in Colorado Springs, Lyudmila Pakhomova and Aleksandr Gorshkov, and Judy Schwomeyer and Jim Sladky exhibited their Tango Romantica and Yankee Polka for consideration as new ISU compulsory dances.
- **1975:** The first international competition on the African continent, Skate Safari, was held in Johannesburg. U.S. skater Barbie Smith won the ladies event.
- **1975:** The ISU’s Ice Dance Technical Committee, led by former World champion Lawrence Demmy, voted to officially ban all vocal music from ice dance. Previous to this, there had been rare instances where it had been used.
- **1976:** The first ISU Junior Figure Skating Championships (a prototype for the World Junior Championships) were held in Megève, France. American skaters Mark Cockerell, Suzie Brasher, and Lorene and Donald Mitchell won medals. Junior competitors weren’t permitted to compete at the Europeans, Worlds or Olympics previously.
- **1976:** The marking categories for the short program were changed from “technical merit” and “artistic impression” to “required elements” and “presentation.”
- **1976:** Toller Cranston’s revue “The Ice Show” opened in Boston to favorable reviews. His cast included U.S. Olympians Colleen O’Connor and Jim Millns, and Wendy Burge.
- **1976:** The first episode of Donny and Marie Osmond’s show aired, with a precision skating number as a highlight.
- **1976:** The first episode of CTV’s “Stars on Ice,” a Canadian TV program, aired, with Alex Trebek of future “Jeopardy!” fame as host. Many American stars appeared on the show, including JoJo Starbuck and Ken

Shelley, and Charlie Tickner.

- **1977:** California’s Linda Fratianne made history in Tokyo as the first woman to include a triple toe loop in her winning free skate at the World Championships.
- **1978:** Canada’s Vern Taylor became the first skater to land a triple Axel at an ISU championship. It wasn’t pretty, but it was deemed clean by officials. Taylor wasn’t the first skater to land a triple Axel, though. The first was America’s David Jenkins, back in the 1950s. Jenkins’ feat was captured on video, but wasn’t attempted in competition.
- **1978:** Columbia Pictures released *Ice Castles*, a touching film about a talented young skater whose vision becomes impaired after an accident. It earned \$9,500,000 at the box office and became a cult classic, despite receiving a terrible review from *The New York Times*’ film critic Janet Maslin.
- **1978:** California’s Robert Waghoffer was pushing the boundaries of jumping. He landed a triple-triple combination in his free skate at the Pacific Coast Championships in Burbank, and attempted quadruple jumps in practice. Waghoffer represented America at the World Championships in both singles and pairs.
- **1979:** A flock of about 30 starlings wreaked havoc at the Riverfront Coliseum, site of the 1979 U.S. Championships in Cincinnati. The birds swooped down onto the ice during practices in search of water, and a couple of unlucky skaters and audience members got, well, pooped on.
- **1979:** American skaters won five medals at the first NHK Trophy in Tokyo. The event was held in conjunction with the National Skating Union of Japan’s 50th anniversary.
- **1979:** Flaming Leaves (alternately known as Norton Skate), a test event for the 1980 Olympic Games, was held in Lake Placid, New York. The competition attracted 65 skaters from 16 countries and was the forerunner of Skate America. Americans Scott Hamilton and Lisa-Marie Allen struck gold in the singles events.
- **1979:** The USFSA moved its headquarters from Boston to Colorado Springs. Its museum boasts one of the most important collections of historical skating memorabilia, medals, costumes and literature in the world.

*Ryan Stevens is a former figure skater currently living in British Columbia. He won four medals at the Nova Scotia Provincial Championships before turning to judging. Since 2013, his passion for studying unique and, at times, obscure aspects of figure skating’s history has led him to write hundreds of articles for the blog Skate Guard. He’s also penned a biography of British skater Belita Jepson-Turner and features on skating during the Edwardian era and Great War. s been consulted for research about skating history for CBC, NBC, ITV, print projects and numerous museums and archives in Canada and Europe.*



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# What is one of the most defining or memorable MOMENTS OF YOUR CAREER?

## **TOM ZAKRAJSEK, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COACH**

— One of my favorite moments professionally and personally was when Mirai Nagasu landed her triple Axel in PyeongChang at the Olympic Winter Games. She became the first American to do it at the Olympics and contributed to Team USA earning the bronze medal there. Having helped her learn that jump and coach her through that important moment was gratifying. I knew at the time it was significant, and it was just fun to be part of that.



## **TAMMY GAMBILL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COACH**

— I don't know if I have one defining moment. I've always loved skating from the minute I stepped on the ice. I think I knew when I was younger; I was helping a fellow skater trying to land a jump and she did it. And I remember thinking at that time that I'm going to be a coach when I grow up. That was my goal in figure skating, to be able to help other people and help kids achieve their dreams.



## **DAMON ALLEN, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COACH**

— The most memorable moment for me occurred in 2019 when Tomoki Hiwatashi won the World Junior Championships. Leading up to the World Juniors, Tomoki had competed in a lot of competitions and he was exhausted and tired. He was having trouble motivating himself to put out two performances. We were able to motivate him and he delivered two great programs. In second place after the short program, it came down to the wire with him as the final skater. In the kiss and cry, we saw that he finished second in the free skate, but was first overall. We were ecstatic, jumping up and down. And it was just so rewarding because we were able to motivate him to get to that moment.



“One really memorable moment was being a team leader in Vancouver for the Olympics when Evan Lysacek won the gold medal and Meryl Davis and Charlie White earned the silver medal. That was a fabulous month we spent in Vancouver. It was just phenomenal. Evan skated first in the last flight of six skaters. He performed a strong, clean program. We then had to wait for five more skaters. That hour and a half, or however long it was, was suspenseful, just waiting for the marks to go up for each skater. And then at the end, he was the winner. That was quite an evening, quite a moment in the sport of skating.”

— **LORRIE PARKER, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OFFICIAL**

“One of the most special moments in my career was my free skate at 2018 nationals. It was probably the most free I've ever skated. The energy in the arena was out of this world; it still gives me chills watching that. I remember finishing my program and being like, *Oh my God, I just did that.* And then the moment I received my Olympic medal, standing on that podium with my teammates watching the flag being raised; it was everything I had ever dreamed of. I can't even describe how many emotions I was feeling in that moment. I was like, *“I want to laugh. I want to cry. I was so proud.”*

— **BRADIE TENNELL, OLYMPIAN AND TWO-TIME U.S. CHAMPION**







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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** U.S. Figure Skating is celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2021. As part of this historic celebration, SKATING magazine will recognize 100 "contributors" to the organization. In each issue, we will profile 10 people who have made a significant impact at the club level through their hard work, time commitment and ingenuity. These individuals were nominated by their peers for their selfless commitment to make skating a fun and fulfilling sport for all. At least one of the 10 contributors in each issue will be someone who has impacted the sport at a national level. Nominees who aren't included in the "100" list in SKATING may be recognized on U.S. Figure Skating's social channels or in their respective clubs' social media.

# CLAIRE FERGUSON BLAZED A TRAIL FOR U.S. FIGURE SKATING

BY ED RABINOWITZ

"Firsts" are a really big deal.

We admire them as athletic milestones, document them for the history books and celebrate them as the groundbreaking achievements they are.

And when it comes to firsts, Claire Ferguson is no stranger.

In 1992, Ferguson became U.S. Figure Skating's first female president, a position she served in until 1995. She was also the first American woman elected to the International Skating Union Council, in 1994, and the first woman elected to the International Federation of Figure Skaters.

Ferguson's achievements, however, began well before the mid-1990s. She was the 1980 Olympic Team leader in Lake Placid, New York, and a national and Olympic judge in 1988. She received her 50-year judge's pin in 2011.

The accolades don't end there. In 1997, Ferguson received an honorary degree of arts from the University of Rhode Island at the

university's commencement exercises. University President Robert L. Carothers cited Ferguson's achievements in a personal letter.

"We convey this honor for all the citizens of Rhode Island and in the United States of America who have benefitted from your contribution to sports, women in competitive sports, and to the state of Rhode Island," Carothers wrote. "We believe you are highly deserving of the recognition."

Ferguson's tenure as U.S. Figure Skating president wasn't without its share of turmoil. The 1994 attack on defending U.S. champion Nancy Kerrigan in Detroit put the sport in the spotlight and tested Ferguson's leadership during the unprecedented crisis. Edie Paterson, whose husband Drew was the event's co-chair, recalled the media coverage that followed as "a three-ring circus."

But Ferguson's leadership was steadfast. Jerry Lace, who was U.S. Figure Skating's executive director at the time of the incident,



Claire Ferguson

recalled Ferguson's impressive skills more than 25 years later.

"We talked to Claire, and she got the executive committee together, and an agreement was made that there were only going to be three people who could talk about this incident," he said. "That worked out well ... and I think that helped us in the long run."

Ferguson was also at the helm when "First Skate in the First State," the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships, debuted at The Skating Club of Wilmington in Delaware, in 1995. Her untiring efforts to make the championships a reality attracted more than 400 skaters from 37 states and prompted Ferguson to note that the event had "moved off the drawing boards and become a reality. I think this event has a very strong future."

Those sentiments were shared among many of the skaters, who noted a strong sense of sportsmanship and camaraderie among those who participated.

"When you are a junior, you tend to skate more for your parents or your coach," Ken DeBit, a skater from San Diego, said at the event. "As an adult, you are skating more for yourself and truly skating for the enjoyment of the sport."

There were also many lucrative achievements for U.S. Figure Skating during Ferguson's tenure as president. In 1992, after the International Olympic Committee loosened eligibility rules for professionals and amateurs,



Skating great Michelle Kwan escorts Claire Ferguson during the on-ice hall of fame induction ceremony.

Ferguson took the position that skaters had a right to earn money. U.S. Figure Skating then developed international pro/am competitions that not only sanctioned skaters but brought about more televised events. As a result, dozens of skating shows competed with U.S. Figure Skating for the television dollars.

Shortly after the 1994 attack on Kerri-

gan, U.S. Figure Skating signed a multiyear contract with ABC enabling the association to sell its television rights rather than bear the financial responsibility of producing its own events. The contract ensured greater visibility for the sport — 30 skating-related shows were televised in the U.S. between September 1994 and April 1995 — and financial securi-

ty for years to come.

Ferguson also oversaw the growth of U.S. Figure Skating's Basic Skills Program, something she called "one of the most important developments" that occurred during her tenure.

Clearly, there is no shortage of firsts or accomplishments on Ferguson's résumé.



Dawn Ahlers

## DAWN AHLERS

According to Buffalo Skating Club coach and board member Lindsay Glass, to pick one example of a contribution Dawn Ahlers has made to the club would be doing her a disservice.

"Dawn has worn many hats with the Buffalo Skating Club — Learn to Skate USA director, competition chair, test chair, exhibition chair and so many more," Glass said. "She is always willing to help on committees and provide her guidance."

Ahlers joined the Buffalo SC in 1999. Since then, she has grown and expanded programming, including the Learn to Skate USA and competitive figure skating programs at Cornerstone Arena in Lockport, New York. She is now a dedicated coach and board member of the club.

"The [competitive figure skating] program started with about five skaters, and by 2017 had grown to over 40," Glass said. "There are now over 75 skaters from various clubs across the region that skate with Buffalo SC skaters at Cornerstone Arena."

Kelly Milleville's daughters, Emily and Allison, grew up witnessing Ahlers' dedication to figure skating. They received coaching from her and watched as she tirelessly worked to grow skating in the community.

"She is the kind of person who believes

in this club and has kept it going behind the scenes," Kelly said. "She is not one for recognition. She will not stand out and ask for a pat on the back, but she is the workhorse behind every event, every competition, every fundraiser, every board meeting, every potluck gathering and anything else that goes on."

In addition to her endless service to the Buffalo SC, Ahlers is always a welcome face at the rink. She's there to offer a warm greeting to all skaters, no matter who their coach is or what club they call home. She works to make every skater feel included, from celebrating birthdays with treats and balloons to sectional and national welcome home parties with cupcakes and signs.

"Dawn is such an incredibly special person," Buffalo SC board member Meghann French said. "She's a wonderful coach, yes, but she is also just a force of nature. If something needs to be done, Dawn knows what to do and how to do it. She works tirelessly to make sure it gets done. She's indispensable to our club and is also an amazing ambassador for the sport in general."

— Taylor Dean

## RICHARD BREITWEISER

In his 15-plus years as a board member and president of the North Jersey Figure Skating Club, Richard Breitweiser has embraced one philosophy: Skating clubs exist to benefit and support their athletes.

Breitweiser, who started his skating career in the 1980s, is known throughout the New Jersey skating community as "The Energizer Bunny," primarily because his efforts touch every aspect of the club's events. For instance, he has acted as the chairperson for competitions like the Garden State Games, Basic Skills Series and Eastern Adult Sectional Figure Skating Championships.

"These competitions all ran in the black and allowed the club to become financially sound," Kathie Imperatore, club secretary and test chair, said. "The strong treasury has

allowed the club to withstand the pandemic downturn, as well. He is always on and strives for nothing short for perfection."

Outside of the North Jersey FSC, Breitweiser was also the finance chair on the local committee that ran 2005 Skate America. According to those who know him, Breitweiser's presence is sought after not only because of his talent, but because of his unlimited enthusiasm.

The North Jersey FSC has grown from 50 to 500 members and from one home rink to five during his tenure, and he has skated at each rink to establish strong relationships with the facility's management, Imperatore said.

"His personality has been a large part of his success," she said. "He also makes sure to meet as many skaters and families as possible, and has written several reference letters for athletes as they apply for colleges, awards and jobs."

His diligence thrived in his professional life, as well. An attorney, Breitweiser's days typically began at 4 a.m., so he could complete his work as club president before leaving for the law office at 7 a.m.

When Breitweiser isn't contributing to the club off ice, he's usually on it. He is still a competitive adult skater and a gold medal participant in the Lifetime Competitor

Richard Breitweiser





Recognition program, having attended more than 20 U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships. He also competed in ISU Adult International Competitions in Vancouver and Oberstdorf. He also received a Get Up award for returning to the sport after a torn hamstring.

— Megan Sauer

## CAROLYN HAMAN

Carolyn Haman's involvement, influence and insight have benefitted figure skating for more than 45 years. While she has worn many hats in her career, including club president, judge, referee and beloved friend, all of Haman's roles have worked in concert to expand the popularity of the sport in Dallas.

For instance: Skate Dallas. A lifetime honorary member of the Dallas Figure Skating Club, Haman oversaw the local event as chief referee, transforming it into one of the premiere skating competitions in the country, longtime official Carol Wooley said.

"It attracts large numbers of high-level athletes and officials because it so well-run," Wooley said. "When it was suggested the event be renamed the Haman Open, she humbly declined. She said it was about the athletes, not her."

Dallas FSC obliged — sort of. There is, after all, a scholarship named the CHHH, or the Carolyn Haman Helping Hands Fund, which is awarded to skaters who need assistance with unexpected expenses, like boots, costumes or medical issues.

While she served on Dallas FSC's board for decades as a member and president, Haman's generosity of spirit and time have stretched beyond Dallas FSC. She was a chief referee for numerous qualifying and nonqual-

Carolyn Haman



ifying competitions, traveling nearly every week around the U.S. She also served on U.S. Figure Skating's Nominating and Membership Recognition committees for many years.

As a young athlete, Wooley had a front-row seat to the monumental growth at the Dallas FSC — her admiration for Haman has more to do with her personality than her contributions. Her mother became close friends with Haman after they met at a competition in Omaha, Nebraska. Shortly after that, she took Wooley under her wing.

"When I was considering Southern Methodist University for college, Carolyn took me touring around Dallas and introduced me to the local skating scene," Wooley said. "She introduced me to judging and drove me to and from test sessions so I could trial judge."

According to Wooley, she was just one of Haman's many mentees, as her top priority was always supporting the athletes and fostering their love of the sport.

"Above all, Carolyn is a true advocate who works tirelessly on skaters' behalf," Wooley said.

— Megan Sauer

## CAROLE HUDOBA

Carole Hudoba founded the Gate City Figure Skating Club in Nashua, New Hampshire, around one principle: encouragement.

Today, it's the largest skating club in the state.

Hudoba was introduced into the skating world when her two daughters, Lisa and Lori, picked up the sport as children. In 2003 when they saw a need for an organization closer to home, the grassroots movement to start the Gate City FSC began. Now the club within the Conway Arena offers ice for freestyle and synchronized skaters alike.

"She fostered her daughters' love of skating," club board director Jennifer Hallisey said. "Now all three of them are well known within our club. Lisa is the skating director, Lori is a coach and Carole is an invaluable member of our club, seen by many of our skaters as an adopted mom and grandmother."

For the last 17 years, Hudoba has been an active board member and the club's test chair. Her long-standing involvement and dedication to the sport have enhanced her extensive understanding of U.S. Figure Skating's history and rules. Because of her organization, the coaches and athletes have more time to focus on skater development, according to Hallisey.

Because Hudoba firmly believes in the



Carole Hudoba

power of support, one of her many claims to fame is skater recognition at the club's annual awards ceremony.

"Carole makes every skater feel in the spotlight during their pin distribution," Hallisey said. "She knows firsthand how difficult it is for young skaters to begin the path of test taking, so every year she congratulates them individually for all of their accomplishments. In a time when so much is changing, it is comforting to know with all of her devotion and experience, our skaters are set on the best path for success."

— Megan Sauer

## TERRIE KERTH

Terrie Kerth's grandfather built Iceland Ice Skating Rink in 1940. In 2010, a devastating tragedy occurred. The rink was set on fire and burned to the ground.

Kerth, who has been skating since she was 2 or 3 years old, refused to let this be the ending. With little hesitation, she set out to bring the rink back.

"Her passion for skating has never diminished," Capital City Figure Skating Club board member Barbara Moriearty said. "The seemingly impossible task of rebuilding Iceland has never deterred her from moving onward."

It would be a long, hard road ahead, one many people probably thought futile. Nevertheless, Kerth began rallying volunteers to help with the rebuild. She showed them to a wheelbarrow and the next task on an extensive list.

She also began a nonprofit foundation to raise money.

Kerth was able to get an outdoor, seasonal rink up and running. Now, a decade later, the new indoor rink is receiving its finishing touches. It is set to open in November



Terrie Kerth

2021.

It is because of Kerth's diligence that figure skating can continue on for the next generation in the Sacramento, California, community.

Kerth is propelled by her fervor.

"The love of skating just came through with her," said Moriearty, who was previously coached by Kerth. "She didn't have to come right out and say, 'Gosh I love skating and I want you to love it, too.' It was just a feeling."

Kerth, a lifelong member of Capital City FSC, which originated out of Iceland, continues to skate.

"If you've ever seen pictures of her when she's on the ice, she just has the most beautiful smile," Moriearty said. "You can tell she loves what she's doing."

— Danielle Terzer

## MARIA MORIN

Maria Morin may be the president of the Ice House of New Jersey Figure Skating Club, but over the last 20 years she has made herself known in the skating community as a master of logistics.

Specifically, at competitions, Morin acts as the go-to person for skaters, parents and officials alike. She organizes, manages and directs everything from facility schedules to accommodations for judges and referees.

"While the board supports these events and takes on tasks, it's always Maria at the helm ensuring we keep skaters at the forefront of our efforts," club board member Maria Witkowski said. "Everyone shows up to a well-run event and is welcomed by Maria's smiling face, but they never hear of



Maria Morin

the behind-the-scenes work that goes into hosting Basic Skills, Moran Memorial Championships and as many as 12 test sessions in a year."

Morin's work didn't pause during the pandemic. To lift spirits, she hosted Zoom gatherings and shipped more than 200 members a custom face covering. Witkowski said these tokens of thoughtfulness, combined with Morin's unparalleled organizational skills, illustrate her commitment to not only the Ice House of New Jersey FSC, but to the sport.

"She is a leader, role model and offers friendship to all she encounters," she said. "The club would not be where it is if not for her efforts."

Board member and friend Donna Menendez met the esteemed president when Morin, then a club parent, expressed interest in getting more involved. At the time, Morin had three jobs and two children, but accord-

ing Menendez, Morin "embraced the whole skating experience."

"Maria still exudes the same enthusiasm as when we first met over 20 years ago," Menendez said. "Maria always makes sure to enforce the club's mission of making sure that the skaters and their families have always had proper recognition, both for their accomplishments on the ice as well as their volunteer hours."

Menendez also said while hosting an event like the Moran Memorial Championships is a clubwide effort, its "success is a true testament to Maria's leadership and passion for the sport."

— Megan Sauer

## KATHY MURPHY

Kathy Murphy formed the first Chicago Skates synchronized skating team in 1988.

In the 30 years since its inception, she has coached within the organization, which represents Windy City Figure Skating Club. It has grown from Murphy's original team to multiple teams and has welcomed more than 500 skaters from around the Chicago area.

"The one constant with this organization has been Kathy at the foundation," Windy City Figure Skating Club Membership Director Meg Ainley said.

Most recently, Murphy coached the B1 team, working with beginners to develop their skills and kickstart their skating experiences.

She is now retired from coaching but remains involved in a managerial role and as a valuable mentor to other coaches.

"It's important to her that this legacy continues," Ainley said. "She sees kids and how they are emotionally developing and how [skating] creates such a strong sense of worth."

Kathy Murphy





To that end, Murphy created the Chicago Skates Scholarship Fund in 2010 to help alleviate potential financial barriers facing skaters. She raises money through sweatshirt sales and skate exchanges for those who are struggling to afford their fees.

"She really wants it to be an accessible sport for everybody," Ainley said. "Togetherness is one of the things that would describe her best."

Murphy's legacy also includes a culture of loyalty within Chicago Skates. She spearheads a season kickoff that unites all the teams, regardless of level. It is also typical for teams to watch, support and cheer on one another during performances.

"Skating on a team like synchronized ... it creates a lot of self-confidence, unity, it creates good sportsmanship, building friendships, having fun," Ainley said. "It's a healthy outlet for kids and a social outlet for them."

This past year, with skaters unable to compete, Murphy devised a special way to recognize seniors. She put together an awards ceremony, and the graduates received a sweatshirt with the years of their careers on the back.

Murphy's favorite thing is watching her students grow and playing a part in helping them achieve their goals.

— Danielle Terzer

## DAVID SANTEE

David Santee's illustrious figure skating career as a two-time Olympian, World medalist, U.S. medalist and U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame inductee is certainly one to be celebrated. His involvement at figure skating's grassroots level may be less well known, but no less worthy of praise.

"[Figure skating] formed his life," Chicago Figure Skating Club Secretary Karen Zydron said. "He learned volunteerism, he learned self-discipline ... he wants to pass that down to future generations."

Santee is the director of skating at Oakton Ice Arena in Park Ridge, Illinois, and also a technical official. Additionally, he coaches at Chicago FSC.

"He promotes the sport very well," Zydron said. "The kids all look up to him."

In fact, his entire family is loyal, actively supporting the sport.

"His family has been involved with younger kids and getting them involved in skating as a way to make them more confident in themselves and to build better people all the way through their lives," Zydron said.

Santee gives equal care and attention to all skaters, regardless of their long-term goals



David Santee

within the sport. He has coached skaters who have gone to the U.S. Championships but also spends time with beginners — speaking with their coaches and making sure they are well-equipped for success.

"He really is invested in their futures, whether they do it for a one-time thing or they really get involved and want to keep going through the program," Zydron said.

Santee's mastery of technique gives him an edge as a coach. He teaches his students the correct way to perform skills and can often help his skaters break poor habits.

"When they feel successful, they do better in all parts of their lives, not just skating," Zydron said of Santee's philosophy.

All things considered, when the board of Chicago FSC was looking for someone to fill an open director position, Santee was the clear choice.

"What better person than David to give us a good outlook on the skating world and keep us grounded and make sure what we're doing for skating is going to benefit everybody," Zydron said.

— Danielle Terzer

## JOANNA ZEHME

As a coach at the New England Figure Skating Club, Joanna Zehme has a passion for the sport that has driven the accomplishments of countless athletes.

Skaters, parents and club volunteers alike describe her as talented, personable and, above all, caring. The lifelong skater has coached at the club for several years, fulfilling other roles such as parent, board member, test chair, Theatre On Ice director, Learn to Skate USA and youth hockey skills instructor and interim synchronized skating director.

"Joanna is an excellent example for

[members] of the sportsmanship, adaptability, resilience and determination it takes to be a figure skater," said Christina Gasbarro, who is the vice president of the New England FSC's board of directors. "She knows when to push and when to support them because she recognizes and respects each skater's individual journey in the sport and celebrates every accomplishment."

And when Zehme steps into a role, she oversees every aspect — skate sharpening, costuming, music cuts and more — all in addition to her professional career as a paralegal. Beyond empathy and administration, Zehme is a gifted choreographer. Gasbarro said when Zehme hears a piece of music, she makes it come alive.

"She has an uncanny ability to choreograph programs that hit the right tone for every individual, synchro team, Theatre On Ice team or class that she works with," Gasbarro said. "Joanna can incorporate so much into a performance and individualize the roles or numbers for each skater's ability, while making it look cohesive."

During the pandemic, Zehme's emotional and strategic strengths continued to shine while supporting the club. She stayed up to date on Massachusetts' restrictions and worked with other coaches to navigate the constraints as positively as possible. She also organized virtual workouts and community events to keep members engaged.

"When things were confusing and lonely for skaters, coach Joanna was an emotional barometer and very in tune when routines or attitudes needed to be adjusted," Gasbarro said. "This past year has been challenging for so many people, but her extraordinary determination to keep her skaters' morale high, physical skills intact and our club moving forward was her top priority."

— Megan Sauer

Joanna Zehme





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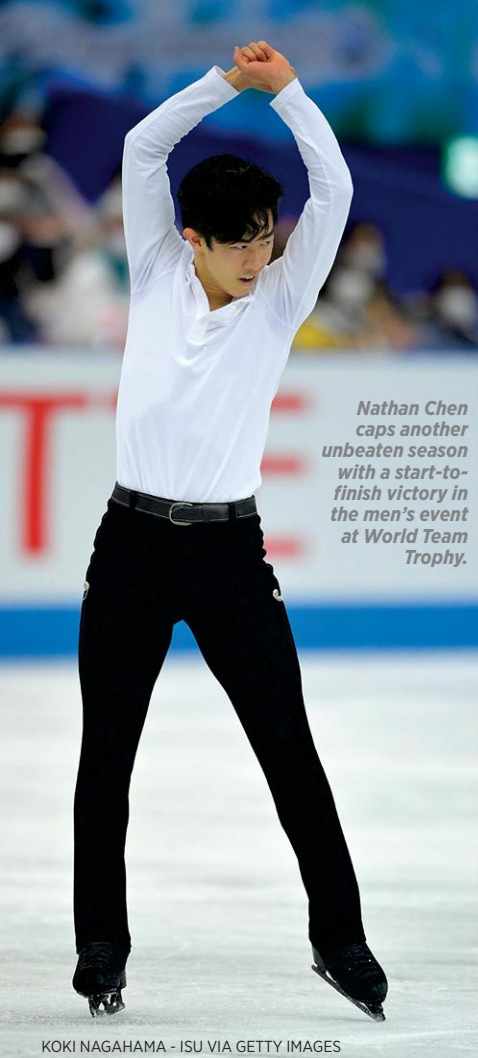
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*Nathan Chen caps another unbeaten season with a start-to-finish victory in the men's event at World Team Trophy.*



# A SILVER LINING

Team USA shows spirit at World Team Trophy

KOKI NAGAHAMA - ISU VIA GETTY IMAGES

Team USA earned the silver medal at the season-ending ISU World Team Trophy 2021, April 15–17, in Osaka, Japan. Since the biennial event's inception in 2009, the United States has finished on the podium in each of the seven competitions, winning the gold medal four times.

With three-time and reigning World champion Nathan Chen leading the way, Team USA used a balanced attack to finish with 110 points. Team Russia claimed top honors with 125 points, while Team Japan secured the bronze medal with 107 points. The top six ISU countries are invited to this competition based on their season results. Two ladies, two men, one pairs team and one ice dance team compose each roster. Each skater/team receives points based on placements in the short program/rhythm dance and free skate/dance. The points are combined across the four disciplines with the highest point total winning.

"I love this event," Team USA captain Jason Brown said. "I love World Team Trophy and it's so fun to support one another and compete in this team format; it's just such a blast here. It's always so special to compete in Japan."

Brown's contribution to Team USA's cause not only came from his performance on the ice, but in his support of his fellow

American athletes and the Japanese Skating Federation that put on the event — a first with spectators for the Americans since the pandemic began early in 2020.

The 26-year-old Illinois native worked closely with team leader Laurie Johnson to coordinate props for the team box and brainstormed with members of Team USA to come up with creative ways to generate excitement and support. Red, white and blue wigs, hats and signs worn and held inside the Team USA box (kiss and cry) helped show that patriotic spirit, as did some short, pre-choreographed dances performed in the box and behind-the-scenes videos of athletes supporting their teammates in other disciplines.

"Especially in a year like this, it is great to rally behind each other," said Brown, who with Team USA had competed just two weeks earlier at the World Championships in Stockholm and arrived in Osaka tired and needing a boost of energy.

Brown and the rest of Team USA used a group text to communicate well wishes throughout the event. He also purchased matching water bottles for the athletes; each had the skater's name on it as another way to show solidarity.

"I tried my best to foster as much team camaraderie and spirit as possible," said Brown, who has competed at three World

Team Trophy events.

Japan has one of the most passionate figure skating fan bases in the world, and Brown wanted to make sure they knew how much Team USA appreciated their support and the Japanese Skating Federation's efforts to put on a world-class event during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the pandemic, fans could only clap. They were not permitted to use their voices or toss gifts onto the ice. Still, the atmosphere in the arena was joyful; fan cutouts contributed to it.

"My biggest goal as team captain, especially at this event where we are not able to interact with the fans because of the bubble, is to do as much as we can to reach out to them," Brown said. "One of those was to make a video before the event. I gave a phrase in Japanese to each of my teammates and they all took part in that, which was really exciting. I just tried to be creative and reach out to fans any way we can at this event."

## CHEN CONTINUES WINNING WAYS

Unlike at the 2021 World Championships, Nathan Chen got off to a fast start by winning the short program by 2.53 points over reigning and two-time Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan. He helped clinch the top spot for the U.S. men with an event-best free skate that was almost 10





KOKI NAGAHAMA - SU VIA GETTY IMAGES

Top left, Jason Brown and Jean-Luc Baker cheer on Nathan Chen. Brown thrills the Japanese crowd with his electric skating skills. Top right, Bradie Tennell and Karen Chen finish the season on a strong note, heading into the Olympic season with momentum.

points higher than the field.

Chen's placements and Brown's third-place short program and eighth-place free skate totaled 39 points — the highest of any of the men's teams. Chen's victory is the latest in a winning streak that dates back to the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, where he placed fifth after winning the free skate.

"Winning competitions and the scores are not entirely up to me and are not something I can control," Chen said. "Of course that's what I want and all athletes want — to go to competitions and win, do the very best they can and skate perfectly clean. That doesn't always happen. Focusing entirely on doing that doesn't help me perform better; if anything, it makes me perform worse."

"I'm happy I have had this streak, but inevitably it is going to end. ... These guys are all so good so I can't ever be complacent where I am. These guys are always getting strong, and especially coming into the Olympic season, they are going to be even stronger. I think it's great that everyone is continuing to push the sport forward, and I will try my best to keep up with that."

Brown, the U.S. bronze medalist, turned in a season-best short program. For

his free skate, he opened with a quadruple Salchow. He did the same at the 2021 World Championships. And while each of those jumps received negative marks, Brown said it's a step in the right direction heading into the Olympic season.

"I'm pleased with the progress," Brown said. "The one at Worlds was even better, so I'm still chasing after that perfectly clean, beautiful '4S' on a protocol sheet. I'm determined and I'm excited as we head into next year."

Mitch Moyer, senior director of athlete high performance at U.S. Figure Skating, said Brown's confidence level is growing for landing the quad.

"Every time he gets out there and does it, he is gaining the experience of doing a quad under pressure, and I've been impressed with how he has added that to his repertoire at this point in his career," Moyer said. "He did some nice ones in practice and a great one in the warm-up, so it just keeps getting better."

#### CHEN AND TENNELL ARRIVE IN THE NICK OF TIME

Karen Chen and Bradie Tennell count themselves lucky just to have made it to Osaka, let alone delivered performances that they are both proud of and that contributed

immensely to Team USA's bottom line.

The U.S. ladies and Chen's coach Tammy Gambill found themselves sprinting through airports to make flights out of the U.S. — their luggage in limbo. Only some last-minute heroics by U.S. Figure Skating travel manager Angelita Wright prevented them from missing the competition.

"It was an adventure," Gambill said.

Chen and Tennell, who both train in Colorado Springs, Colorado, finished right behind the Russians and Japanese in the short program. For the free skate, Tennell rose up to finish fourth, with Chen placing sixth. Combined, they contributed 31 points.

"It feels amazing to come here and put out a program like that," Tennell, the U.S. champion, said after the free skate. "It's satisfying to put out a program I've been doing every day for the last few months, especially after Worlds with my boot breaking and the issues that I had. I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to come here and skate well. It's so fun to skate for the fans again and have their support. I could definitely feel them through my performance."

For Chen, the U.S. bronze medalist, it was a positive ending to an unusual season.

"I feel like this season has had a different





KOKI NAGAHAMA - ISU VIA GETTY IMAGES

**Above left, Alexa Knierim and Brandon Frazier put an exclamation point on their first season together in Japan. Above right, Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker entertain the crowd with their Saturday Night Fever rhythm dance.**

trajectory than other seasons I have had,” Chen said. “Each time that I have competed I put out more solid performances and haven’t been flopping around on the ice.”

Putting a triple Axel into her repertoire will be a priority heading into the Olympic season, said Chen, who finished fourth at the 2021 World Championships.

#### **KNIERIM AND FRAZIER END FIRST SEASON ON HIGH NOTE**

Alexa Knierim and Brandon Frazier departed Osaka proud of their performances and excited for the Olympic season.

Veteran pairs skaters, the duo forged a partnership a little more than a year ago, and the fruits of their hard work and talent paid off throughout the season. In Japan, the U.S. champions placed fourth in the short program and second in the free skate. Their performances combined for a total of 20 points. The Russian team won both segments of the event.

“Their performances here were great,” coach Todd Sand said. “They were skating well all week and coming into this. We told them to just go out and enjoy it and celebrate their partnership. They skated well in the short with one little glitch. I just loved the way they fought in the free skate. It was not easy, but I think they are happy. I’m happy for them and their hard work paid off. It’s a great springboard to get ready for the Olympic season.”

The one glitch in the short program came in a fall on the throw triple loop.

“It was uncharacteristic in the sense that we had not fallen on it this week in practice,” Knierim said. “But if anything, I think it just gives us even more experience. We hadn’t fallen in the short in a competition, so how do we rally together after? The program was well skated and it didn’t change once the fall happened.”

For their free skate, Frazier said the long week in Japan and the travel to get there caught up to him.

“For me it came down to physical things,” Frazier said. “I’m proud how I tried

to stay mentally tough.”

For the first time, the duo incorporated a three-jump combo after their opening triple twist.

“We train it at home on a regular basis, but it wasn’t quite ready for the World Championships,” Knierim said. “We decided this would be a good opportunity to put it out there and I’m glad that we did. It’s a good confidence booster moving forward.”

“... We are proud of our free program. We have definitely put out stronger ones at home. We received a decent score but it wasn’t our best, which means there is still room to improve. We are happy to have put out a stronger program than at World Championships, which gives us confidence and is a great way to end our season.”

#### **HAWAYEK AND BAKER LOOKING FOR ANSWERS**

Three-time and reigning U.S. ice dance bronze medalists Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker placed third in both segments behind teams from Russia and Italy. They contributed 20 points to Team USA’s overall score.

The veteran team, however, felt mixed emotions after receiving their scores.

“As athletes we take pride in our work and in our art, and at the end of the day we try really hard

to hold onto the feeling we had when we finished our program,” said Hawayek. She and Baker performed their free dance to “Heart of Glass” by Philip Glass and Blondie, and “First Movement” by Philip Glass.

“We both felt satisfied after our skate today. It’s hard to balance the frustration and

disappointment we felt when the scores came up. It wasn’t what we expected at all and it’s certainly not what we want to be scoring. We are not really sure where we let things slip through the cracks.”

Upon returning to their training home in Montreal, the team was going to meet with their coaching team to formulate their plan for the Olympic season.

“We need to keep improving our scores instead of maintaining, or worse, having them be lower,” Hawayek said. “The scores that we have had at this competition and at World Championships are not the scores that we believe we have the capability of getting. From there we plan on working our very hardest in the offseason and leading into competition. We are proud of the consistency that we have started to show in our competitions and always putting out solid performances, and now we just need to figure out how to elevate that.”

Despite their disappointment, Hawayek and Baker thoroughly enjoyed their experience in Osaka. They have competed in Japan six times, including now twice in Osaka.

“We love everything about Japan — the food, the culture, the audience, the fans, the organizing committee,” Baker said. “We are always thrilled around June and July when we find out which events we will be at, and we cross our fingers we get to come back here [to Japan].”

#### **ISU WORLD TEAM TROPHY 2021 APRIL 15-17, OSAKA, JAPAN** U.S. officials: Sam Auxier, Lorrie Parker, Jennifer Mast, Sharon Rogers

RANK	TEAM/NATION	MEN		LADIES		PAIRS		ICE DANCE		TOTAL POINTS
		SP	FS	SP	FS	SP	FS	RD	FD	
1	Team Russia	8	10	12	12	12	12	12	12	125
		6	8	11	10					
2	Team United States of America	12	12	8	9	9	11	10	10	110
		10	5	7	7					
3	Team Japan	11	11	10	11	10	10	8	8	107
		4	7	9	8					
4	Team Italy	3	6	6	6	11	9	11	11	72
				5	4					
5	Team France	9	9	2	2	8	8	9	9	67
		5	4	1	1					
6	Team Canada	7	3	4	5	7	7	7	7	57
		2	2	3	3					



# Get ready to hit the ice with these two new captivating figure skating fiction books!

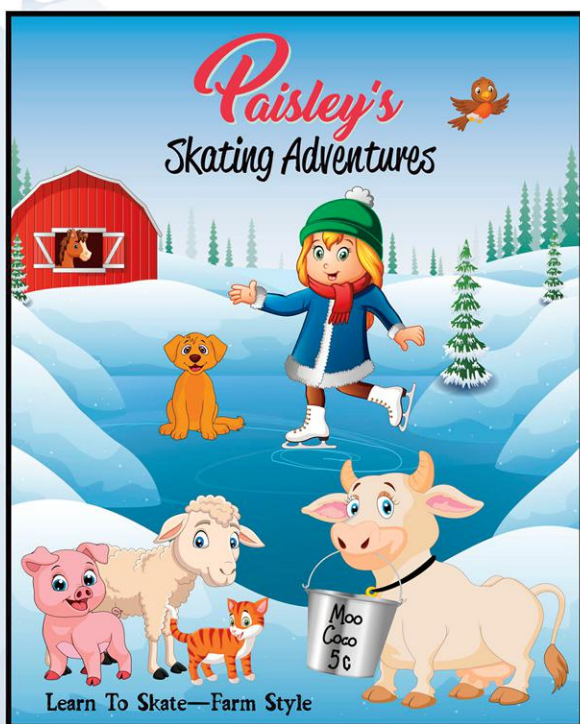
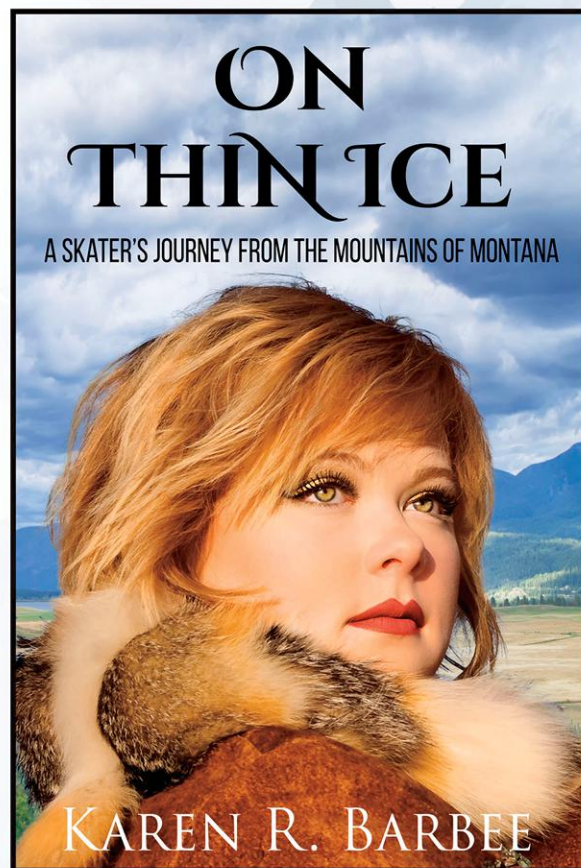
Dreamer, Skater, Goal Maker!

On Thin Ice, is a captivating story of Paisley Renee' Stewart or "P.R." as she is affectionately known. She is a one-girl-campaign advertisement for figure skating and Montana—the state she calls home. Raised on a family farm by her single mother Carrie and doting grandparents, Paisley's adventures both on and off the ice, have more twists and turns than her skating routines.

As a latecomer to the sport, P.R. is determined to become a senior level skater, by her senior year in high school. Her skating future was bright until an injury left her wondering if it was over. P.R.'s road to recovery takes the skater down an unusual healing path. Unconventional methods of treating her injury inspire an unlikely meeting with Anjel Mairee, a Native American woman, who becomes a guiding force in Paisley's uncertain future.

On Thin Ice, is a fascinating read, weaving drama, humor, and heartbreak, within its pages. Expect to laugh, cry, and be Paisley's number one fan!

Ages 13-Adult



Paisley's Skating Adventures is a series of children's books for ages 4 - 10, and takes place on a farm in Montana. Paisley's love of figure skating inspires her to teach her farm animals how to skate.

Join the journey as the farm's pond becomes a skating rink and Paisley becomes their figure skating instructor!

Ages 4 and up

Visit [bunkhousebarbee.com](http://bunkhousebarbee.com) to see sample pages or order your own copy.

Both softcover and ebook versions available.



## OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

Discover the newly refreshed Adult Competition Series

BY AVIVA M. CANTOR

Gaining the courage to compete for the first time as an adult can be a daunting task. For most, the greatest challenge is not the preparation and training. Instead, it's the day-of-the-event jitters, stage fright and the voice in one's head that says, "Why did I do this?"

Competition can be nerve-wracking, but with great risk comes great reward. Adult skaters enjoy this outlet for achieving goals, making friends and sharing their love of the sport with others.

In 2016, the Adult Skating Committee launched the Adult Competition Series (ACS) for skaters in adult 1 through adult bronze levels. Nearly all competitors in these levels began skating as adults and do not have lifelong experience in the sport. The program provides a meaningful series of events that encourage grassroots adult skaters to enjoy a fun and competitive environment within the adult skating community.

Participants compete in free skate events in at least two Compete USA and/or nonqualifying competitions, one being the nonqualifying event held in conjunction with a skater's adult sectional championships. Athletes receive points based on their placement and the number of competitors in each event, and these points determine the final series winners in each section.

In her role on the Adult Skating Commit-

tee as vice chair for Learn to Skate USA and nonqualifying events, Kerri Bottorff oversees all aspects of the ACS.

"We have several exciting changes this season," Bottorff said. "Skaters can compete in any sanctioned competition that offers adult events; you don't need to seek out approved competitions. The competition must be held from May 28, 2021, through Feb. 20, 2022. Along with live competitions, you may also compete in sanctioned virtual competitions."

In addition to opening up the competition structure, the ACS has a new process for submitting results.

"Skaters are now responsible for sending us their results," said Bottorff, who notes that a photo, scanned copy, attachment or screenshot can be emailed to the Adult Skating Committee.

A new registration timeline has also been implemented. Skaters will register for both the ACS and sectionals during the adult qualifying season registration period of Dec. 15, 2021, through Feb. 1, 2022.

"Any competitions you do before Dec. 15 will still count toward placement, provided you send in your results," Bottorff said.

Her advice to potential competitors? Bottorff, who began skating at 25, said, "Do it! Putting yourself out there is scary and I question my sanity almost every time I compete. I have never regretted doing a competition, despite my multiyear streak of coming in last or second-to-last at every event I entered. The friendships and memories I have made over the years make it all worth it."

## CONGRATULATIONS

to the skaters who participated in the 2021 ACS Virtual Challenge.

### RESULTS

#### Adult 3 free skate

1. Brogan Yarzabek, Arctic FSC

#### Adult pre-bronze free skate

1. Jennifer Cox, Pittsburgh FSC

2. Danielle Donaldson, Triangle FSC

3. Stan Kimer, Central Carolina SC

#### Adult bronze free skate

1. Kaoru Slotsve, Fort Collins FSC

2. Susan Frobish, Illini FSC

3. Kimberly Balas, Fort Collins FSC

## SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 11-13, 2022

To finalize points and claim your sectional trophy, you must compete at the nonqualifying competition held in conjunction with the 2022 Adult Sectional Championships.

- Eastern Section:  
Havertown, Pennsylvania
- Midwestern Section:  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Pacific Coast Section:  
Spokane, Washington

If you have questions, contact [adultcompetitionseries@gmail.com](mailto:adultcompetitionseries@gmail.com) or visit [usfigureskating.org/adultskating](http://usfigureskating.org/adultskating).



"Competing is a fun way to meet people who enjoy skating and is great motivation for coming back to the ice. It gives you something to work toward and look forward to."

— BROGAN YARZABEK

## ARE YOU HESITANT TO COMPETE FOR THE FIRST TIME? DON'T BE!

### TAKE ADVICE FROM PAST ACS COMPETITORS:

"Adult competitions are so much fun. You cheer for your competition, not against them. Plus tossies!"

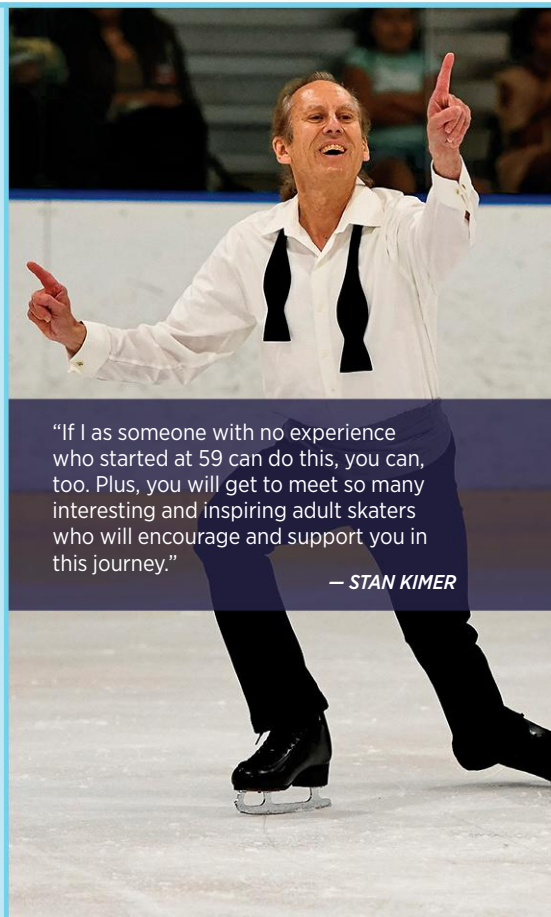
— DANIELLE DONALDSON

"I started skating in my late 40s and it took a while to collect the guts to compete at a local competition for the first time. You will be hooked. You will get to know other adult skaters and be inspired by them."

— KAORU SLOTSVE

"I never had a pair of skates on until I turned 50. My daughter started and I decided to try it. I felt less stress on the ice and it was a good way to create more balance and flexibility. There is a place for everyone who wants to participate and a very welcoming adult group to support your efforts."

— KIMBERLY BALAS



"If I as someone with no experience who started at 59 can do this, you can, too. Plus, you will get to meet so many interesting and inspiring adult skaters who will encourage and support you in this journey."

— STAN KIMER





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*Kraken Training Center will serve as the hockey hub of the Pacific Northwest. Not only will it house the new NHL team's official practice rink, but it will also be a community-oriented facility for adult and youth hockey, figure skating, leagues, events and more. The facility is located five miles north of downtown Seattle at Northgate Mall and will have three ice rinks, an official team store, restaurant and bar, and Kraken staff offices. A full schedule of activities and registration will launch summer 2021.*

# KRAKEN 'TIDE' FLOATING ALL ICE SPORTS IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

BY ED RABINOWITZ

Members of the Seattle Kraken will take to the ice in the fall of 2021 for the NHL team's inaugural season. But while that first drop of the puck is still months away, the enthusiasm that's been generated is widespread and growing.

"I think what people are starting to recognize is how having an NHL presence here expands the awareness of ice sports in general," Mary Klugherz, a Seattle-based singles and pairs competition judge, and former chair of the U.S. Figure Skating Strategic Planning Committee, says. "This will help the skating community grow, both hockey and figure skating."

That's a safe bet, if history is any indication. The Kraken enter the NHL just four years after the Golden Knights' arrival triggered a newfound interest in skating in the Las Vegas area. Chad Goodwin, who was the skating director with the Golden Knights and recently assumed the same position with the Kraken, recalls the rapid growth.

"We congratulate Chad on his new position with the Seattle Kraken. We have every confidence that with his leadership and the mission of the Kraken, they will introduce the joy of skating to thousands of families in the Seattle area, making everyone feel welcome."

**SUSI WEHRLI MCLAUGHLIN,  
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP  
AT U.S. FIGURE SKATING**

"We had 92 kids signed up at the first Learn to Skate session, and by Christmas we had more than 600," Goodwin says. "And it just blew up from there."

Blew up, as in reaching a high of more than 1,800 members during the 2018–19 season. Goodwin sees the same opportunity for growth in Seattle.

"The goal is getting kids into the Learn to Skate USA program, get them on the ice," he explains. "It's about making skating fun for as many people as possible."

Klugherz agrees. She explains that once kids experience skating, whichever path they take — hockey or figure skating — is up to them. The key is getting them exposed to ice sports in general.

"There's already a lot of interaction between figure skating and hockey at the developmental sports level, and many people are not aware of that," Klugherz says. "I think that's what we're going to be seeing a lot more of (in Seattle)."





**The Seattle Kraken, the NHL's newest franchise, will play its home games at Climate Pledge Arena.**



**Chad Goodwin**

Kendra Black is the president of the Seattle Skating Club, the oldest skating club in the Pacific Northwest. She says that Kraken merchandise is everywhere, and that enthusiasm is contagious.

"Coming out of COVID, it's been wonderful to see the response we're getting for the Learn to Skate program," Black says. "We were anticipating one class and we've had to add another."

Timing is everything. Not only will a professional NHL team make its debut in the fall, but a new three-sheet skating facility will open during the same time frame. Black says one sheet will be used by the Kraken for practice, but at least one of the other sheets will be open to the public.

"All the skaters are excited to have that level of facility coming in," she says.

Especially skaters with the Highland Skating Club. Rebecca Frampton is the club president. She explains that the owners of the rink where her club practices are retiring in the near future. Her club will lose its home,

and the skaters will need to look elsewhere.

"The advent of the Kraken facility is a godsend for us," Frampton says. "And being that [the facility] is close to Seattle proper, it will increase awareness and interest in skating overall."

Black says there's also a great deal of pent-up energy that members of the community, following a very challenging year with all the rinks shut down due to COVID-19 protocol, are anxious to release. Figure skaters who have been waiting to get back on the ice are thrilled the rinks are opening.

"We're feeling very optimistic," she says.

So is Goodwin, who plans to reach out to skating clubs in the Seattle area to assess their thoughts regarding the NHL team, the new skating facility and see how they can work together to grow figure skating. He's bringing valuable lessons learned from the successes in Las Vegas.

"You have to complete the Learn to Skate course before you can move up," Goodwin explains. "That's how we developed our pipeline."

For the parents who say their child just wants to play hockey, not learn how to skate, Goodwin has a ready answer. He points out that before you can join the swim team you need to learn how to swim. He looks at skating the same way.

"We're going to give all the kids confidence in their skating ability, and get them on a team as fast as we can, and make it fun," he says. "And then the hockey coaches can really take it to the next step for them."

But Goodwin is quick to add that he has a figure skating background. So when he creates the figure skating program at the

Kraken training center, he plans to work closely with the skating clubs and organizations in the area to help grow the sport together.

Black and Frampton have already been conducting Zoom meetings with Kraken management to discuss ways their respective clubs can work with the NHL franchise and form a partnership on the Learn to Skate program. They believe other local clubs are looking to do the same, and they're eager to work with Goodwin in his capacity as skating director for the Kraken.

"He has done amazing things in Las Vegas for the figure skating community," Black says. "I know he will be great to work with."

Echoes Frampton, "The Golden Knights' program just took off in a city that didn't have much to start with. So I know that it's going to be incredibly successful building and promoting ice sports here."

It's the "rising tide floats all boats" philosophy, and Klugherz says she's a firm believer.

"You expand the market, and everybody can benefit," she says.

And the Pacific Northwest is an expansive and diverse market. Klugherz says the arrival of the Kraken has huge implications not just for Seattle and the Puget Sound area. She believes the market-capture area for the Kraken is regional and includes Alaska, Oregon and Idaho.

"They're building a fan base, so they want to have influence and awareness across a regional area," Klugherz says. "Lots of pieces are coming together to provide an opportunity to expand ice sports as a whole in the region."



# RISE

## RISE YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS RECOGNIZED

Sophia Gloskowski, Julia Seta, Eva Casas and Emily Domingo are the winners of this year's **RISE** Youth Essay Contest. Members of the Memorial Fund Committee read more than 100 essays that were submitted, and selected the winners in four discipline categories: pre-preliminary, preliminary, pre-juvenile and juvenile. Category winners each received an award of \$1,000. For this year's contest, skaters were asked: It is important to have support when following one's dreams. Who believes in you? Who do you look to for inspiration in your life?

Here are the winning essays.

### SOPHIA GLOSKOWSKI PRE-JUVENILE

I would like to tell you about someone special in my life, my older brother, Nathaniel. When I was younger, I knew my brother was different. He wouldn't play with me and would yell and fight all the time because he was sad or frustrated. When my brother was 6 years old, he was diagnosed with autism. It was hard, but my mom and I had to learn how to help him. I tried to see him with special capabilities instead of being disabled.

Nathaniel is now 15 and still struggles with simple things, but it doesn't keep him from trying new things, too. He practices playing the piano, does gymnastics, codes for video games and is even learning Chinese. He has come a long way and this gives me hope when I face my own challenges. His patience shows me that practice does lead to success.

Nathaniel has to go to speech and occupational therapy to help him learn things that come easily to most of us. He spends hours



Sophia Gloskowski

repeating words and movements so he can get better at them. At first, just sitting still to listen was difficult for him.

Eventually, he learned to speak his first words, learned to count and even read and write. I no longer compare myself to others, because our accomplishments might look different for each of us. And it doesn't mean one is any lesser than the other.

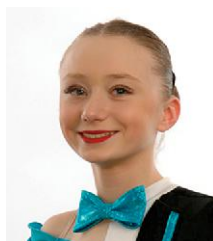
He has always shown a love for music and he learned dance is a great way to express his wonderful spirit. This helped him learn to interact with us, which can be scary for him because others aren't always kind to him. The hardest times are when Nathaniel comes home crying because he has been bullied. Making friends is never easy, but it doesn't keep him from caring for others. He can always tell when I am down, and will try anything to make my day better, even when he might be having a bad day himself. He teaches me to smile, even on my toughest days.

Much of who I am is because of my brother. He taught me that actions are the loudest words I will ever use, and to do, not just say, I will. I learned to be my most effective self, because time is important. I learned to get back up, because you can't let fear control you. There are times we need to be strong even if we feel weak. He inspires purpose, strength and courage to take on everything life has to offer even when it pushes me outside my comfort zone.

I am a skater and my brother has become my biggest teacher and cheerleader, and I am so grateful to have him with me on this journey. When I skate onto the ice and the music starts, he is like the moon in the night sky, shining bright to light my path. I have been given the gift of living in the moment as I continue to become a better person. I am forever thankful to him.

### JULIA SETA JUVENILE

Everyone I know and love believes in me, but not like my grandpa. When I think about the people who believe in me and



Julia Seta

support me in my hobbies, I can picture many different faces from my large family.

However, when I think about who my true inspiration in my life is, I immediately think of my grandpa. I once came across a quote that will forever stick with me, "A person who truly loves you will never stop believing in you and will never let you go, no matter how hard the situation is." When I read that quote for the first time I instantly thought of my grandpa.

My grandparents have lived in Poland my entire life. I was born and live in America. We are an incredibly close family, but we only get to see each other every couple of years. I have been able to visit my grandpa in Poland only once; it is tough not being able to spend time in person with the man who has been so important in my life. My grandpa is the most loving and one-of-a-kind person on this planet. Whenever I FaceTime him he always has a smile that stretches across the ocean. Even though he is thousands of miles away, he watches every competition I go to and cheers me on through the screen.

He was born right after World War II, which was a tough time for Poland. The country was under communist rule, and life was hard for families trying to rebuild after the devastating war. Part of Poland was under Russian occupation, and it happened to be the part where my grandpa was from. As a child, my grandpa was forced to learn Russian and speak no Polish, or he would be killed. He also had some extremely tough jobs growing up. He had to fix tanks and work on trains, shoveling coal into the engine. While working these strenuous jobs, he learned to not lose hope and work hard to help support his parents.

Through all of these tough life experiences, he never let them get him down or negatively impact who he was. He is persistent no matter what the cause or occasion. Before I step foot onto the ice for a competition, I think of him and how he fights to get what he wants. He makes me try harder and strive for my best at everything I do. I always think about how tough life was for him, but he never let it get him down. He still finds a way to smile at me every time I see his face, even though most of the time it is on the other side of the world. He is my biggest cheerleader and believer and, for that reason, he is my biggest inspiration.

### EVA CASAS PRE-PRELIMINARY

"Anything is possible when you have the right people to support you."

— Misty Copeland

When all else fails, support from your friends, family and community can help



you get through some of the hardest of hard times. Let's take a look into the many forms support can be shown in, and how it can affect someone.

I believe that support is one of the most fundamental beacons of light for someone following their dreams. Having people who you can rely on to build you up can make all the difference when you are running out of steam. Figure skating is a unique sport because unlike soccer, football, or hockey, your success entirely depends on you. Your coach can't help you when you are out there with the judge's eyes on you in the middle of your program and you fall. Only you can.

That is a lot of pressure for someone and sometimes it bubbles over and you find yourself ready to dump your skates in a trash can, move to Australia, and start a new life as a crocodile wrestler because you just can't land that one jump or because your footwork doesn't flow like it should. Having a coach that congratulates you on the little things and parents who are waiting for you in the viewing area after practice can put things into perspective. After all, skating is what I love and the bumps in the road will smooth out after riding them enough.

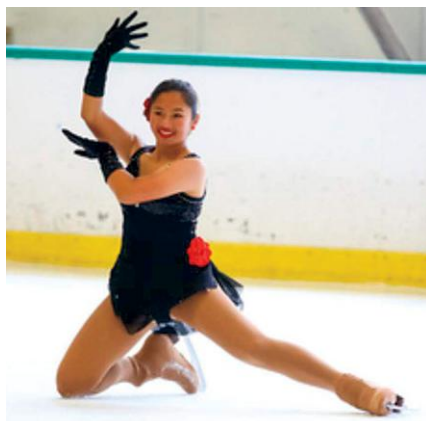
There are many people I can get that support from in my life, and each has their own way of showing that they care. I am grateful for the people in my life who believe in me and all my aspirations. I can always rely on my family. My mom tries to learn all she can about skating so she knows what I'm talking about when I describe what I'm working on. My dad is constantly hyping me up and raising my mood. My grandma graciously takes me to practice at "Oh my god o'clock." She probably knows my on- and off-ice schedule better than I do. I also have my sisters who push me to my full potential the way most siblings do.

Another cornerstone in my life is my coach, Brenda. Brenda has helped me reach levels I used to think were reserved for the good skaters when I was still in Learn to Skate. She often has more faith in me than I do, and she knows how to push me to my best self without letting me get too frustrated. I also have my friends to thank for showing me the bright side

*Eva Casas*



of every situation. They are always interested in what jumps and spins I am working on and, in turn, I learn about their 100-meter backstroke times. Aside from sports, I always know I can joke around and have a good time to relax and let go with them. All of these people inspire me, but they are not the only ones.



*Emily Domingo*

## EMILY DOMINGO PRELIMINARY

We all have our inspirations, people we look up to, those who we want to be like. Yet, only some of us ever pursue our dreams, our goals. Pushing your limits and finding that sole purpose for why you do what you do every day and never giving up is one of the hardest things to do in life. And this is the definition of my inspiration.

It's Dec. 12, 2013, 10:15 a.m. PT. A doctor from the local Kaiser hospital calls a mother informing her that her husband has passed away. This was his fourth heart attack, except this time it was different. She wasn't with him.

Memories of their time together flood her mind and heart.

She is left with two decisions: stay strong for her two kids or give up.

Giving up, though, wasn't her style. Giving up was a sign of loss, but she didn't look at this as a loss but as part of life. "God closes one door to open another," she tells herself.

Life got harder, dealing with two kids, one entering the third grade and another starting sixth, and to her, they were her motivation. She would work early morning shifts to midnight just to put food on the table. Trying her best to keep her kids distracted and busy from grief, she signed them up for camps, after-school activities and clubs; she took them to new places and showed them that there is so much in life and that giving up wasn't an option.

As time went on, her second child said she'd like to sign up for skating classes. The mom signed her up for group lessons once a

week after school. Right before her daughter went on the ice for her lesson, the mom would always tell her "to be careful out there, OK?" and put on a warm Hello Kitty hat to protect her daughter's delicate head.

Unexpectedly, her daughter's coach came back one day saying, "She's progressing rapidly, and I'd love to teach her." This put a smile on the mom's face but it slowly faded away. She didn't have enough money for private lessons, let alone group lessons. But the mom said, "I'll sign her up, thank you."

One day, her daughter came home and said, "Mommy, I want to go to the Olympics." Little did she know that that would stick with her for the rest of her skating career. Her mom, however, was still worried that she wouldn't be able to cover the cost. Still, she signed her up for the club at her rink. Her daughter was already almost 14 and a lot older than the other girls, but that never stopped the mom from believing in her daughter.

It's now Sept. 12, 2020.

The mom had to work more and more shifts to cover the expenses of her daughter's skating and her son's hockey. Over time, her daughter started taking after-school sports and didn't have time for the 5 p.m. group lessons after school. Instead, her mom took her to practice at 4:30 every morning before school so her daughter could keep skating.

Every morning was hard for the mom to get up, arriving at the rink still in her pajamas while the other parents were dressed up and ready for the day. Embarrassed at first, she realized one day that while her mom didn't look like every other mom, she was still her mom. And that she still loved her and that it was because of her that her mom looked like this. Her mom cared so much about what her kids were wearing, if they were eating enough, if they were healthy enough, that she forgot to take care of herself.

And that ever since her father had passed, her mom had never bought something nice for herself because she thought it was selfish as a single mother to take care of herself instead of her kids. And this made the daughter decide that she'd like to push herself to the Olympics, bringing home gold for her country and her mom.

We all have our special inspiration and our special someone who believes in us. Someone who made us who we are today, someone who told us, "Never give up," "Get back up again," and "I know you can do this." Someone who saw the light in our eyes and sacrificed their minutes in life to make our dreams and wishes reality.

And with that, I'd like to thank my special someone: to the mom in this story that gave everything up just for me. Thank you, Mom.





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## SKATE TALK WITH PATTI: What every skater needs to know about ankle mobility

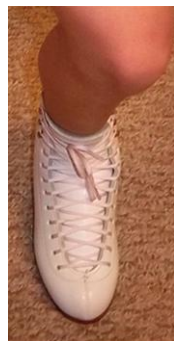
The ankle is a complex joint that is primarily composed of three bones, many muscles, tendons (including the Achilles) and ligaments. It is responsible for locomotion, providing mobility to the foot, supporting body weight and assisting with both balance, and with shock absorption from ground impact forces.

Ankle mobility and strength are essential to all figure skaters and are critical components of a skater's potential ability and ultimate performance. Better edge control, increased speed and power, blade balance, overall body alignment, and even jump height are all dependent on the mobility and the strength of the ankle.

Athletes practicing jumps, regardless of how many rotations, land with forces between eight and 10 times their body weight (Breuning & Richards, 2006). Optimal ankle mobility and strength will soften their jump landings and absorb much of the impact forces. A research study published in *The Professional Skater* magazine in 2012 titled "The Impact of the Impact" measured the impact of jump landing forces of 25 figure skaters. It was discovered that the better the ankle strength and range of motion a skater had, the less impact the forces on the body. The study said, "To reduce the impact and shock of the landing, a combination of greater ankle range of motion and stronger ankles that are trained to be better shock absorbers at impact are needed."

When ankle strength and joint mobility are limited, not only are all the performance benefits compromised, the shock to the body increases. If the ankle cannot absorb the impact efficiently, the forces are transferred to other, subsequent joints, but these joints may not necessarily be designed to withstand the impact and can be forced out of their optimal alignment as a result. Over time, this can lead to injuries such as Achilles tendonitis, stress fractures, foot and ankle problems, shin splints, ACL tears and hip or spine injuries.

Ankle mobility restrictions transfer some of the impact forces to the foot, causing the foot to either overpronate within the boot (**image 1**), or place additional stress on the smaller joints of the foot, causing discomfort or even pain in some cases. Foot issues such as Haglund's deformity, calcaneal bursitis, Achilles tendonitis and stress fractures



*A lack of ankle mobility forced the foot to overpronate, thereby placing excessive pressure on the side of the skate.*

(image 1)

are common in individuals with limited ankle range of motion.

The additional stress imposed on the side of the boot from an overpronated foot can also lead to early boot breakdown. Although it may appear as the boot was defective, or that the skater was in need of a stronger boot, in reality, the excessive stress placed on the boot was a result of the faulty ankle and foot-ankle mechanics causing the boot to lose support.

Not all ankle mobility restrictions are internal. A skater may have good ankle range of motion but be fit with skates that are too tall or too restrictive for the body, thereby inhibiting natural ankle mobility (**images 2**).

The impact study goes on to say that during a jump landing, the more time a skater has between when the toe pick hits the ice and when the heel of the blade hits the ice, the greater the decrease in impact forces on landing. This finding strongly suggests that skating boots should neither inhibit the skater's ankle mobility nor limit the skater's ability to point the foot at the initial contact to the ice during jump landings.

It is never too late nor too early in any athlete's skating career to incorporate a good ankle and calf exercise routine into off-ice training. Exercises should include foam rolling, balance, stretching and strengthening exercises and should be performed several times a week for maximum benefit.

However, if any exercise causes discomfort or pain, or if there isn't any marked improvement within a reasonable time, it is advisable to discontinue the exercises and consult with a qualified professional. He or she would be able to



(images 2)

*Skaters should be able to bend their ankles until their knees are positioned over their toes while keeping the back straight. If boots are too restricting, they will force skaters backward while they are attempting to bend their ankles.*

provide the skater with a comprehensive alignment evaluation, could determine whether any issues needed address and could offer appropriate exercises specifically tailored to that individual.

Figure skating is a beautiful sport filled with intricate and challenging elements, but like many other sports, there are certain risks for injury. It is important that athletes understand that muscular strength and joint mobility health play a large role in not only in maximizing performance, but also in preventing potential injury.

**Next article:** Boots, Blades and Body Alignment

*Patti Larkin is a board-certified pedorthist and retired board-certified orthotist, and she has spent 21 years in the orthotics field designing and fitting custom orthopedic braces and foot orthotics. As a former competitive skater, coach and judge, Larkin has successfully merged her skating experience with her knowledge of the foot and body mechanics to fit skaters for the past 17 years. She is the owner of Houston Skate & Sports Orthotics Center.*







# SKATING

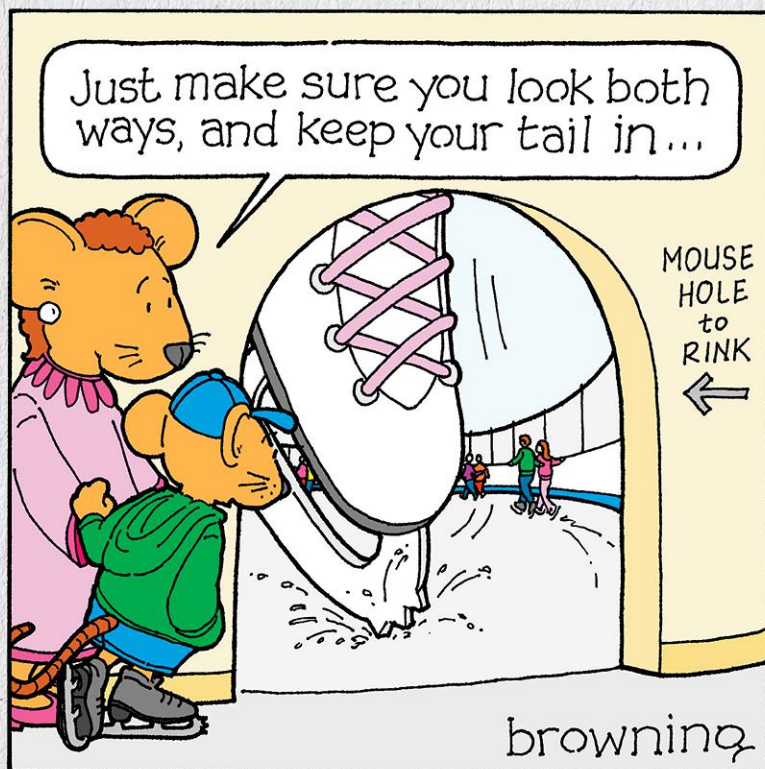
## KIDS ZONE

PUZZLES BY  
TAYLOR DEAN

Answers on page 64

### GO FIGURE

BY GENE BROWNING



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

### 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!

DERRICK DELMORE  
ERIC PROBER  
FOURTH OF JULY  
GET UP  
JANET LYNN  
LEARN TO SKATE  
MADISON CHOCK  
SUMMER  
TIMELINE  
TROPHY



### KIDS SPOTLIGHT

#### AIMEE DESROSIER-S-KUTCHUK

**Age:** 12

**Hometown:** San Diego

**Club:** La Jolla FSC

**Level:** Junior moves in the field, preliminary free skate

**Coaches:**

Terry Pegano Kudrna,  
Anthony Kudrna,  
Brooke Brannon

**How I got started:**

My mom signed me and my brother up for figure skating when we were 3. My mom said I used to not want to do it, but soon fell in love with skating and have

been doing it since.

**Favorite moves:**

Double flip, double Salchow, Biellmann spin, spirals

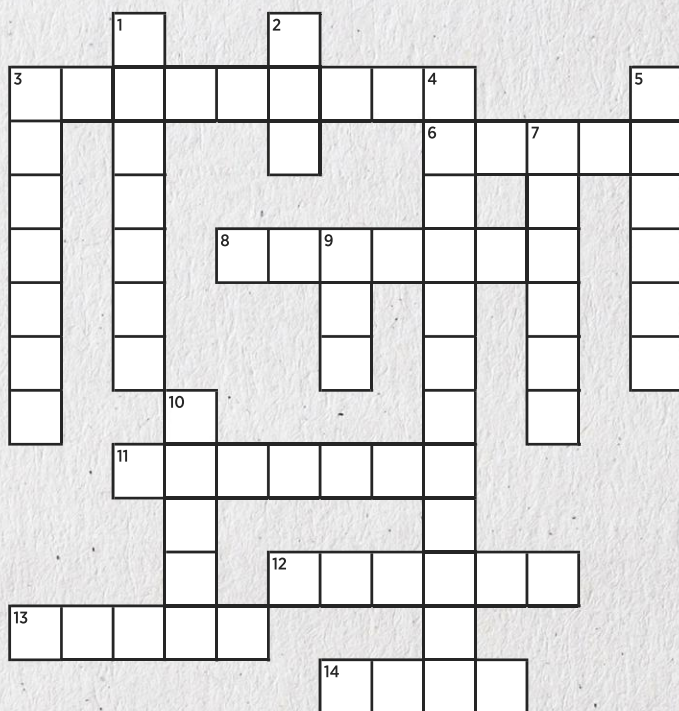
**Favorite skaters:**

Mariah Bell, Alysa Liu,  
Nathan Chen

**Goals:** To pass my senior moves in the field before I'm 13, land my double Axel by summer and go to the Olympics.

**Hobbies:** Shopping, playing with my dog, piano, track and field, dance, drawing, hanging out with friends





#### ACROSS

**3** The late Mabel \_\_\_\_\_ was honored during the Figure Skating in Harlem virtual gala.

**6** Besides her popular haircut, Dorothy Hamill is credited with creating the Hamill \_\_\_\_\_.  
**8** Skating clubs and programs across the

country are honoring their high school \_\_\_\_\_ this spring.

**11** \_\_\_\_\_ sales for the 2022 U.S. Championships in Nashville, Tennessee, are underway.  
**12** 2021 U.S. junior ladies champion Isabeau \_\_\_\_\_ plans to compete as a senior domestically next season.  
**13** The 2021 ISU Grand Prix Final will be held in Osaka, \_\_\_\_\_.  
**14** Four young skaters won a cash prize and recognition in the \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Essay Contest.

#### DOWN

**1** Charlie \_\_\_\_\_ secured the World men's title in 1978, a first for the U.S. in eight years.  
**2** Randy Gardner and

\_\_\_\_\_ Babionia won five U.S. pairs titles and the 1979 World crown.

**3** Like their mothers, many \_\_\_\_\_ play major roles in their skaters' careers.  
**4** Competitive skaters looking for financial support can apply for numerous \_\_\_\_\_.  
**5** The first female president of U.S. Figure Skating was \_\_\_\_\_ Ferguson.  
**7** Years after winning the Olympic gold medal, Peggy Fleming starred in a TV special in \_\_\_\_\_, Russia.  
**9** The Seattle Kraken is the newest \_\_\_\_\_ franchise.  
**10** Legendary coach Frank Carroll guided the career of 1980 Olympic silver medalist \_\_\_\_\_ Fratianne.

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

### PAIGE THOMAS

**Age:** 9

**Hometown:**

Bay Village, Ohio

**Club:**

Cleveland Ice Storm

**Level:** Preliminary moves in the field

**Coaches:**

Emily Susman, Miranda Hoy, Julie Bellomy

**How I got started:** I started with Snowplow Sam classes at the age of 3. I was accidentally put into Basic Skills when I was 5 and continued with lessons.

I started synchro when I was 6.

**Favorite moves:** Catch-foot, spiral, crossovers, spread eagle, shoot the duck

**Favorite skater:**

Alysa Liu

**Goals:** To land an Axel, compete in more solo competitions and continue with synchronized skating.

**Hobbies:** Piano, soccer, softball, Mario Kart, crafting





# A FATHER'S DAY TRIBUTE

'Daddy, can we go back tomorrow?'

BY CHARITY HENDRICKSON AND EVANGELINE ROSE WHITLOCK

The last family vacation we took before the COVID-19 pandemic changed our lives was to the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships in Providence, Rhode Island, in February 2020.

Before the event, we two sisters realized it would be the first time in 20 years that we would participate in the same competition — Charity as the head coach of St. Louis Synergy Junior and Evangeline as a skater on Gotham City Synchro Masters.

We knew we had to convince our parents, Brad and Sharon Whitlock, to attend.

"It will be so fun!" we both urged in separate phone calls as we campaigned for them to fly across the country. "Who knows if we'll ever be at the same competition in our skating careers again? Please!"

It worked, because a few weeks later we all traveled from three different states to meet up in Providence and make a million wonderful memories at a skating competition, just as we had been doing for more than 30 years in the sport.

There are two versions of how we started figure skating.

Evangeline's version: "Dad, you told me you were signing up for skating lessons and asked if I wanted to go."

Dad's version: "Evangeline, when you found out I was taking lessons, you begged me to take you and wouldn't leave me alone until I did."

Whichever version is correct, it's the next part that matters most — the part in which Dad obliged when, after her first lesson, Evangeline asked, "Daddy, can we go back tomorrow?"

Thank God we all "went back tomorrow" to enjoy skating in Providence. It was the last skating vacation we would take as a family. On Dec. 26, 2020, our dad passed away from COVID-19 after a valiant month-long battle in the ICU. He was only 62.

We were all aware of the gravity of COVID-19. It affected every aspect of our lives — our professions, our leisure, our homes and churches, our friendships and, of course, our figure skating.

We were worn down by closed ice rinks, limited practice time and the heartbreak of canceled competitions. But you don't think it will impact you in such a profound and

*The Whitlock family (l-r) Brad, Charity, Evangeline and Sharon enjoyed a skating outing at The Rink at Rockefeller Center in New York.*



*Brad Whitlock and daughter Charity shared countless moments on and off the ice, including this one at adult sectionals.*







**Brad Whitlock and his ice dance partner Susan Schwaegler competed at the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships.**



**Evangeline and her father took to the ice at City Ice Pavilion in New York, New York.**

personal way — until it does.

Grief is strange. In the midst of the pain, the questions, and the tears, we also find ourselves laughing uproariously when we recall a joyful moment. For us, so many of those joyful moments happened on the ice or in transit to an ice rink. So many of those moments are stitched into the seams of our old skating dresses and laced up in our very skates themselves.

Our dad was a skating dad in every way. Inspired by the 1988 “Battle of the Brians,” he started taking lessons. Then he took Evangeline skating, and in true little sister fashion, 3-year-old Charity begged to start skating, too.

Our dad skated with us in ice shows and family spotlights. He drove us more than two hours round trip to Chicago Jazz synchro practices every weekend morning. He worked long hours to pay for our lessons, equipment, coaching fees and that souvenir sweatshirt we always wanted at competitions.

He took up synchro when Charity was recruited to coach an adult team in Rockford, Illinois. He started ice dancing because he loved the feeling of flying across the ice and he enjoyed competing. He volunteered to

announce at competitions and ice shows. He loved the camaraderie of the adult skating community and going out for coffee with his friends after practices.

He continued to be a skating dad by attending competitions we weren't even competing in, but that Charity was coaching at. After his death, we cleaned out his office and found his pin collection — two books thick, including pins from every Kalamazoo Kick Off competition since its inception.

The response of the skating community to our dad's death has been overwhelming and awe-inspiring. Multiple clubs in the St. Louis area where Charity coaches sent flowers and offered condolences and support. Adult skaters from the Chicago area drove to Rockford to attend his funeral mass. The woman who was president of the Rockford Skating Club when we were children, whom we hadn't seen in 20 years, came to pay her respects. Messages poured in from skaters and coaches around the country. It reinforced how supportive our skating community is, and how deeply we are all affected when we lose one of our own.

We often hear about the skating moms — minivan shuttles to practice, team

manager moms, moms in the locker room fixing their daughters' hair. Don't get us wrong, we love all our skating moms. We wouldn't be where we are without them. But figure skating creates a bond between father and daughter like nothing else can — we are living proof of that.

So let's hear it now for the skating dads! The dads are often the ones trying not to cry as they watch their skaters take the ice. The dads learn how to French braid without pulling hair, and they perfectly polish boots after driving six hours through a snowstorm to a competition.

The dads work overtime to afford that new pair of skates. And our dad — well, he's the one who started skating himself, and then brought the entire family along for the ride. Between the two of us, we have 60-plus years of figure skating. We have been competitors and coaches. We have earned national titles and international medals. Dad instilled in us a lifelong love of the sport of figure skating. He endured lipstick prints on his cheek when we landed our first Axels. He wiped away tears when we fell yet again. He laced up our skates until we learned to do it ourselves. He was there for our wins and our losses.

We will continue to lace up, step out onto the ice, get up when we fall, cheer for each other when we win, console each other when we lose, and make memories within this great sport. All because our dad listened when we said, “Daddy, can we go back tomorrow?”



# HATS OFF!

U.S. Figure Skating pays tribute to its graduating seniors

BY KYLEIGH GAFF

The COVID-19 pandemic abruptly ended the figure skating season in March 2020. Many of the graduating high school and college seniors consequently saw their seasons — and in some cases their skating careers — cut short, including those teams attending the World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships in Nottingham, Great Britain. Before their first official practice, team officials announced that the U.S. delegation would be getting on a plane

immediately and returning home.

Back in the States, graduating seniors received news that the National Intercollegiate Final had been canceled, as well.

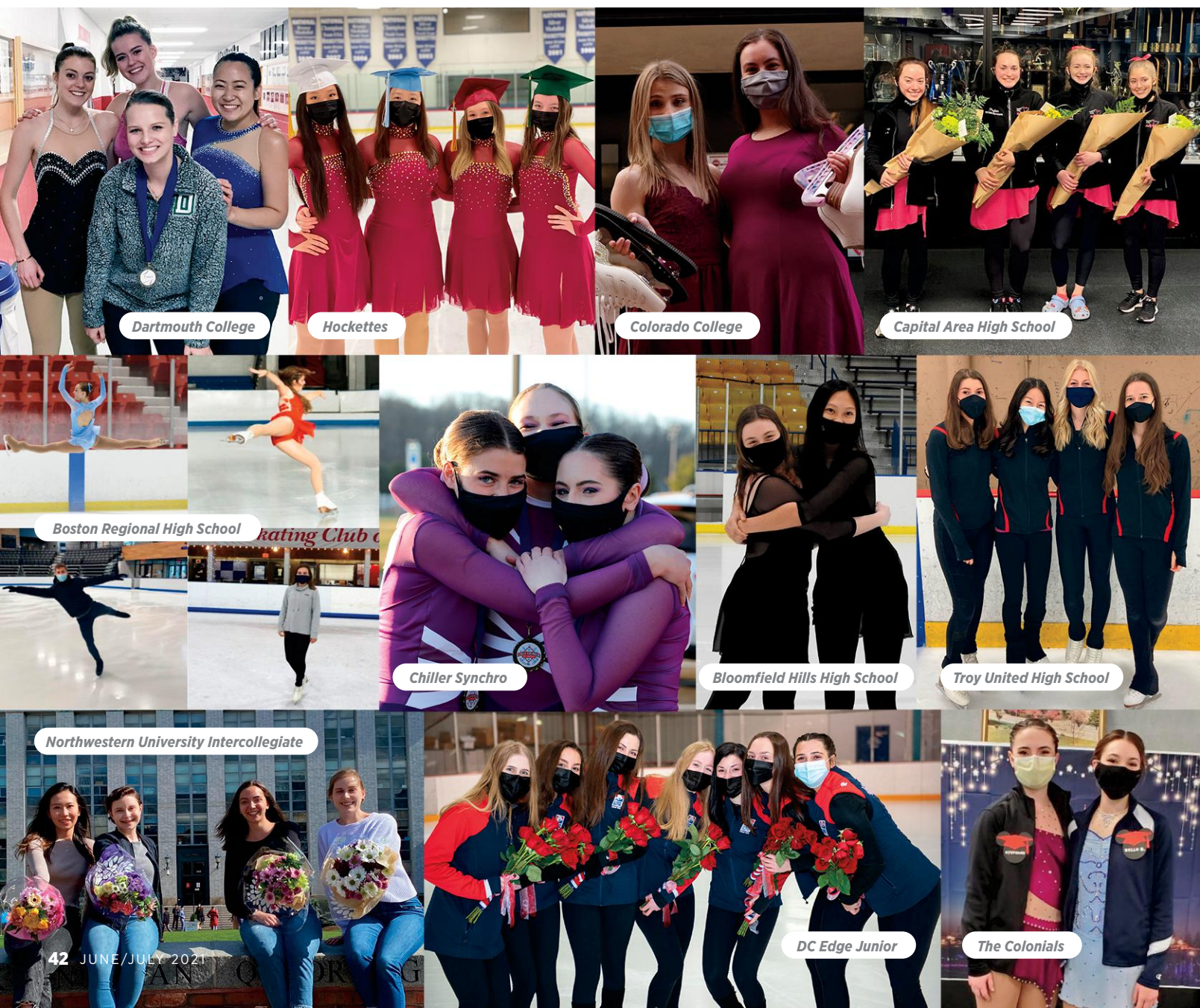
It was a devastating blow for everyone, especially those seniors who didn't have a next season to look forward to.

To celebrate their accomplishments, U.S. Figure Skating initiated Senior Day, an opportunity for organizations to say thank you, congratulations and good luck to their

graduates.

The response was tremendous, with an outpouring of support for the seniors on social media and on organizations' websites.

U.S. Figure Skating is excited to have a day dedicated to the seniors again this season. Check out U.S. Figure Skating's Instagram on two Fridays in June — one for college graduates and one for high school graduates — or refer to the Instagram highlights to see familiar faces and send well-wishes their way.





To the U.S. Figure Skating Class of 2021 — Congratulations! You've made the most of this unprecedented season by masterfully navigating a sea of unknowns. Your perseverance and resolve are to be commended and will serve you well on your life's journey.

Below is a list of graduating seniors submitted by their coaches, team managers, or club officers. These skaters are on current synchronized skating teams in the open juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior, senior, collegiate and open collegiate divisions; intercollegiate teams; and/or high school teams.

U.S. Figure Skating is proud of the nearly 500 graduating seniors from four countries, 32 states, and more than 250 high schools and 39 colleges and universities.

*Kyleigh Gaff is the manager of synchronized skating at U.S. Figure Skating.*



## ALASKA

Katherine Fritsch, Team Forget-Me-Not  
Meredith Fritsch, Team Forget-Me-Not  
Adelie McMillan, Team Forget-Me-Not

## ARIZONA

Ashley Osborne, ASU intercollegiate  
Heather Morse, ASU intercollegiate  
Lauren Carreras, ASU intercollegiate  
Nicole Lim, Ice Denettes  
Isabella Bowles, Ice Denettes  
Caitlyn (KK) Wiley, Ice Denettes  
Sarah Moss, Miami University varsity  
Adeline (DeeDee) Boodle, Ice Denettes

## CALIFORNIA

Kelly Lansdell, Adrian College varsity synchronized  
Nicole Olson, Adrian College varsity synchronized/intercollegiate  
Alexis Middleton, ASU intercollegiate  
Miranda Xie, Boston University synchro  
Devon Feicht, Matrix  
Jessica Zhao, Carnegie Mellon University intercollegiate  
Samantha Ramsey, Carnegie Mellon University intercollegiate  
Francesca De Buhr, California Gold  
Jillian Rokey, Matrix  
Victoria Guerrero, California Gold  
Taylor Chow, Tremors of San Francisco intermediate  
Sydni Katz, Matrix  
Audrey Balazs, Skyliners novice blue  
Emily Wilson, Liberty University  
Chloe Ewing, California Gold/Matrix  
Jenelle DeMedio, Miami University varsity  
Julie Nelson, Miami University varsity  
Danielle Nelson, California Gold  
Haley Peters, New York University intercollegiate  
Ashley McMahan, UC Irvine intercollegiate  
Claire Hom, UC Irvine intercollegiate  
Jeanette Sherman, UC Irvine intercollegiate  
Jullia Bautista, UC Irvine intercollegiate  
Katherine Phan, UC Irvine intercollegiate  
Paul Yeung, UC Irvine intercollegiate  
Scott Wong, UC Irvine intercollegiate  
Georgia James, UCSD intercollegiate  
Julianna DeContrehaus, UCSD intercollegiate  
Alexandra Tien-Smith, UC Berkeley intercollegiate  
Aurora Evans, UCLA intercollegiate  
Emery Moberg, UCLA intercollegiate

## CANADA

Anne-Claude Champagne, Adrian College varsity synchronized/intercollegiate  
Daisy Harris, Dartmouth College intercollegiate  
Amy Li, New York University intercollegiate

## CHINA

Jorrian Zhang, Boston University intercollegiate

## COLORADO

Margaret Genevich, University of Colorado Colorado Springs intercollegiate  
Chloe Regan, University of Denver intercollegiate

## CONNECTICUT

Ally Morin-Viall, Adrian College varsity synchronized/intercollegiate  
Arielle Likiler, Team Image  
Rebecca Midden, Shadows  
Grace Yu, Team Image  
Whitney Garden, Dartmouth College intercollegiate  
Sherlynn Arcuri, Team Image  
Athena Hartigan, Skyliners novice black  
Julia Peldunas, Shadows  
Alexandra Popescu, Skyliners junior  
Alison Hechler, Boston Regional High School  
Isabella Osinovsky, Shadows

Isabela Malone, Team Image  
Charlotte Carter, Team Image  
Jaden Cheng, University of Connecticut  
Lauren Watson, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
Stephanie Achoa, Washington University in St. Louis, intercollegiate  
Jillian Belluck, Skyliners junior

## DELAWARE

Margaret Amory, Adrian College varsity synchronized  
Michelle LaFranca, Adrian College varsity synchronized  
Zofia Janusz, Team Delaware junior  
Kelsey Mulrooney, Team Delaware intermediate  
Emily Joseph, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
Hannah Bieber, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
Samantha Lee, University of Delaware intercollegiate

## FLORIDA

Rachel Metzner, Boston University intercollegiate  
Emma Probus, Miami University varsity  
Julissa Lara, South Plantation High School

## GEORGIA

Carley Bryant, Liberty University

## IDAHO

Sheldon Gentling, Lexettes

## ILLINOIS

Julia Dolce, Adrian College synchro  
Kelli Corcoran, Adrian College synchro  
Gia Swanson, Teams Elite junior  
Angela Dong, Boston University intercollegiate  
Dayton Stickney, Chicago Skates  
Brooke Zausa, Teams Elite junior  
Alyson Globis, Starlights  
Cindy Blumer, Starlights  
Isabel Leadbeater, Colorado College intercollegiate  
Sofia Dolce, Starlights  
Caitlin Glascott, Evanston Figure Skating Team  
Lucy Cinnamon, Evanston Figure Skating Team  
Mira Marino, Dazzlers junior  
Avnika Surapaneni, Dazzlers junior  
Carlie Olsen, Dazzlers intermediate  
Maddie Beery, Starlights  
Ellie Lim, Teams Elite junior  
Erica Lee, Teams Elite junior  
Sofia Gisiner, Teams Elite junior  
Nicole Wrzesinska, Teams Elite junior  
Savannah Paisley, Starlights  
Lauren Costin, Teams Elite junior  
Jamie Hansen, Chicago Skates  
Sophie Harris, Chicago Skates  
Madison Kracht, Teams Elite junior  
Lilah Ephraim, Chicago Skates  
Allison Furman, Chicago Skates  
Lily Rossi, Glenview Blades  
Michelle Murphy, Chicago Skates  
Kelly Littau, Marquette University intercollegiate  
Melissa Trujillo, Miami University varsity  
Brooke Janeczek, Dazzlers junior, intermediate  
Angela Tan, Dazzlers junior  
Katherine Li, Dazzlers junior  
Lauren Schmookler, New Trier High School  
Olivia Raymond, New Trier High School  
Rebecca Holleb, Northeastern University intercollegiate  
Naomi Leadbeater, Chicago Skates  
Jill Mark, Chicago Skates  
Kayla Anderson, Dazzlers open juvenile  
Kayla Gawecki, Dazzlers intermediate  
Elaina McCormick, Dazzlers intermediate  
Falasha Mahadevia, Dazzlers intermediate



Aaliyah Davis, Starlights  
 Alex Trocchio, Dazzlers junior  
 Tori Faust, Starlights  
 Etta Veenstra, Dazzlers junior  
 Joonsoo Kim, UCLA intercollegiate  
 Karina Nance, UCLA  
 Nicole Maguire, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
 Kelsey Philipps, University of Michigan synchronized  
 Diane Ainley, Chicago Skates  
 Heather Wheatley, Chicago Skates  
 Haley Weilbacher, Saint Louis Synergy junior  
 Meg Li, Chicago Skates  
 Abby McGuire, Starlights  
 Elisa Tsuji, Northeastern University intercollegiate

## MARYLAND

Emily Feldman, DC EDGE  
 Ella Dimmick, DC EDGE  
 Arielle Gordon, Colorado College intercollegiate  
 Sophia Soltanian, Skyliners junior  
 Adele Rudnick, DC EDGE  
 Laura Butz, DC EDGE  
 Caroline Barberich, DC EDGE  
 Brianna Faulkner, Team Delaware intermediate  
 Sarah Waldych, Team Ashburn  
 Jane Liu, DC EDGE  
 Isabella Helgeson, DC EDGE  
 Jane Jou, DC EDGE  
 Michaela Hepp, Towson University  
 Sonya Choudhary-Smith, Towson University  
 McKenna Schindler, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
 Kailyn Geter, University of Michigan synchronized  
 Ember Carrera, DC EDGE  
 Abigail Hall, DC EDGE  
 Rebecca Bernstein, DC EDGE

## MASSACHUSETTS

Grace McMurray, Team Excel intermediate  
 Alethia Chan, Ice Mates  
 Gemma Parker, Boston Regional High School  
 Jennifer Volcker, Boston University synchronized/intercollegiate  
 Sarah Pottle, Burlington High School  
 Kathleen Rice, Boston University synchronized/intercollegiate  
 Andrew Korda, Boston University intercollegiate  
 Heidi Munger, Boston University intercollegiate  
 Ryan VanDoren, Boston University intercollegiate  
 Riley McGhehey, NESc High School  
 Alannah McShine, Lexettes  
 Elly Monaco, Lexettes  
 Isabella Brackett, The Colonials  
 Sophia McAvoy, NESc High School  
 Nia Bessey, Miami University varsity  
 Paige Gerenz, Miami University varsity  
 Amelia Dexter, NESc High School  
 Amanda Mack, Island Waves  
 Audrey Harrington, Island Waves  
 Caroline Harding, Island Waves  
 Reese Burns, Island Waves  
 Sydney Ryder, Island Waves  
 Delaney Shaw, Lexettes/Nauset High School  
 Isabella Valentino, Nauset High School  
 Piper Kavanaugh, Nauset High School  
 Olivia Lynch, Team Excel intermediate  
 Clara Gross, Boston Regional High School  
 Philip Baker, Boston Regional High School  
 Emma Nogueira, NESc High School  
 Emily Melskey, Skyliners senior  
 Allison Phillips, Skyliners senior  
 Avital Liberzon, Quinnipiac University intercollegiate, Team Excel collegiate  
 Lydia Mason, Quinnipiac University intercollegiate  
 Rebecca Vangness, Quinnipiac University intercollegiate  
 Victoria Fater, Quinnipiac University

intercollegiate  
 Alexa DerBoghossian, Reading Memorial High School  
 Jordan Talty, Reading Memorial High School  
 Hannah Parker, Team Excel intermediate  
 Stephanie Dietzel, The Colonials  
 Acadia Kopec, Team Excel collegiate  
 Amelia Marceau, UMASS collegiate synchronized  
 Jennifer Healy, UMASS collegiate synchronized  
 Jordyn Dilorenzo, UMASS collegiate synchronized  
 Juliet Patrick, UMASS collegiate synchronized  
 Shannon Donahue, UMASS collegiate synchronized  
 Dana Freedman, UMASS Collegiate synchronized  
 Abby Coleman, University of Michigan intercollegiate  
 Marisa O'Gara, University of Michigan synchronized  
 Carolyn Carlisle, UNH synchronized  
 Meaghan Scotti, UNH synchronized  
 Brianna McIntyre, Team Excel intermediate  
 Emily Schneider, Skyliners junior  
 Samantha Bruno, Winchester High School  
 Emma L'Esperance, Winchester High School  
 Rachael Lim, Ice Mates/Winchester High School

## MICHIGAN

Amy Czuhajewski, Adrian College varsity synchronized/intercollegiate  
 Jenna Blackburn, Adrian College varsity synchronized/intercollegiate  
 Lyndsey Purcell, Adrian varsity synchronized/intercollegiate  
 Madison Alestra, Adrian College varsity synchronized  
 Nicole Czuhajewski, Adrian College varsity synchronized  
 Shannon McLaughlin, Adrian College varsity synchronized  
 Emma O'Connor, Southgate High School  
 Kadie Hayden, Southgate High School  
 Megan Sapp, Macomb United  
 Alisa Voyevicko, Troy United  
 Lauren Ferguson, Troy United  
 Reagan Pozdol, Bloomfield Hills High School  
 Jenna Vartoogian, Howell High School/Crystalletes  
 Lindsay Chisholm, Macomb United  
 Samantha Schneider, Macomb United  
 Kiley Tiemann, Capital Area High School  
 Sophia Wright, Hockettes  
 Ava Rea, Crystalletes  
 Sophie Strasbur, Capital Area High School  
 Megan Michalski, Crystalletes/DUFS  
 Nathalie Morgan, Crystalletes  
 Hannah Grimes, Hartland United  
 Grace Van Zante, Capital Area High School  
 Emily Paras, Howell High School  
 Salomé Mouliere, Hockettes  
 Jasmine Tedjo, Bloomfield Hills High School  
 Deena Aboul-Hassan, Troy United  
 Samantha Peterson, Hartland United  
 Madilynn Leblanc-Wakefield, Hartland United  
 Anna Haisenleder, Macomb United  
 Abigail Hiler, Traverse City Combined Figure Skating Team  
 Alyssa Koza, Blue Water United Skates  
 Emily Krile, Miami University varsity  
 Kaycee Siebler, Miami University varsity  
 Avrie Shettler, Hartland United  
 Madison Morey, Middle of the Mitt High School  
 Jennifer Guo, Hockettes  
 Giulia Castiglioni, Allegro! open juvenile  
 Grace Neafsey, Allegro! open juvenile  
 Mackenzie Bankhead, Allegro! open juvenile  
 Shoko Kitamura, Crystalletes  
 Katlin Watson, Oakland University intercollegiate  
 Nicolette Fey, Oakland University intercollegiate  
 Sarah Kress, Allegro! open juvenile  
 Avery Morgan, Blue Water United Skates  
 Emerald Higgins, Blue Water United Skates  
 Francesca DePaulis, Southgate HS Team  
 Lauren Beneteau, Southgate HS Team  
 Alexei Chen, Rochester United  
 Alison Chen, Rochester United  
 Eliza Seibert, Crystalletes  
 Emily Saari, Rochester United  
 Molly Evans, Rochester United  
 Nicole Blankenship, Rochester United  
 Isabella Toma, Rochester United  
 Emily Mikami, Rochester United  
 Selina Lin, Hockettes  
 Amanda Vermillion, Hartland United  
 Emma Gasior, Southgate High School  
 Paige Parker, Blue Water United Skates  
 Tori Poreda, Crystalletes  
 Bethany Koniec, Capital Area High School  
 Emily Grover, Crystalletes  
 Alessia Taylor, Rochester United  
 Francesca Schena, Rochester United  
 Lily Sorensen, Rochester United  
 Rachel Tolfree, Traverse City Combined Figure Skating Team  
 Rayna Miller, Traverse City Combined Figure Skating Team  
 Nikki Schipperijn, The Ohio State University intercollegiate  
 Jordyn McNamara, Allegro! open juvenile  
 Kristina Chen, Troy United  
 Rachel Burke, Troy United  
 Laina Heydens, Macomb United  
 Sam Kopeitz, Macomb United  
 Allyson Taylor, University of Michigan synchronized  
 Camille Grace, University of Michigan synchronized  
 Devin Pascoe, University of Michigan intercollegiate  
 Kallan Roan, University of Michigan synchronized  
 Kylee Andrew, University of Michigan synchronized  
 Lea Piotrowski, University of Michigan intercollegiate  
 Maria Khalaf, University of Michigan intercollegiate  
 Samantha Lee, University of Michigan intercollegiate  
 Christina Sylvester, West Bloomfield High School  
 Jada Lee, West Bloomfield High School  
 Numa Arif, West Bloomfield High School  
 Peyton Huttenlocker, Capital Area High School

## MINNESOTA

Rachel Kraber, Adrian College varsity synchronized/intercollegiate  
 Hanna Munoz-Halvorson, Team Velocity  
 Lauren Pettis, Team Velocity  
 Mallory Nelson, Team Velocity  
 Kinley Anderson, East Grand Forks High School  
 Abby Collins, Team Velocity  
 Ally Collins, Team Velocity  
 Anna Jesch, Team Velocity  
 Davanika Langseth, Team Velocity  
 Amanda Sarbaugh, Team Velocity  
 Ann Sanders, Team Velocity

## MISSOURI

Hannah Fenn, Saint Louis Synergy junior  
 Natalie Bruno, Saint Louis Synergy junior  
 Sophia Miltenberger, Saint Louis Synergy junior  
 Morgan Booher, Northeastern University intercollegiate  
 Oona Gaffney, Northeastern University intercollegiate  
 Alyssa Despotis, Washington University in St. Louis intercollegiate  
 Brittany Patrick, Washington University



in St. Louis intercollegiate  
Chloe O'Brien, Saint Louis Synergy junior

## NEBRASKA

Betty Wang, Boston University intercollegiate

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Emma O'Neill, Synchro Stars  
Grace Jones, Southern NH RHS  
Isabella Hesselton, Synchro Stars  
Shreya Sagi, Southern NH RHS  
Meghan Lapointe, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
Olivia Jackman, UNH synchronized

## NEW JERSEY

Tara Tahil, Adrian College varsity synchronized  
Sydney Hall, Boston University intercollegiate  
Tiffany Henry, Boston University intercollegiate  
Anagha Vasuvadero, Carnegie Mellon University intercollegiate  
Victoria Whittle, Team Image  
Marian Zhang, Skyliners junior  
Ethne Laude, Skyliners junior  
Lauren Kaufmann, Synchroettes  
Phoebe Halper, New York University intercollegiate  
Kaitie LaCasse, Northeastern University intercollegiate  
Anna Torell, Team Image  
Sophia Howson, Synchroettes  
Emily Kirillov, Haydenettes/UConn intercollegiate  
Isabel Lubin, University of Delaware  
Nicole Seither, University of Delaware collegiate synchronized  
Shannon Ehler, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
Caitlin Lowe, Team Image  
Darcy Campbell, Synchroettes

## NEW YORK

Sydney Butler, CP Ice  
Samantha Rydzewski, UMass collegiate synchronized  
Cole A. Savitz-Vogel, Sky Rink High School  
Sharon Bikvan, Skyliners junior  
Arielle Warren, Boston University intercollegiate  
Byul Sak, CP Ice  
Izzi Holmes, CP Ice  
Melissa Marchetti, Team Image  
Audrey Poon, CP Ice  
Elizabeth Rauenhorst, Sky Rink High School  
Julia Fennell, Colorado College intercollegiate  
Grace Madden, CP Ice  
Jessica Jasie, Mirror Images intermediate  
Jamie Gall, CP Ice  
Hannah Osborn, Mirror Images intermediate  
Allison DeLaet, Team Image  
Kiemyn Lopez, CP Ice  
Madeline Ciampa, Team Image  
Anna Calamis, Beaver Dam Blades  
Cameron Feeley, Haydenettes  
Jenna Reynolds, Team Image  
Lily Rosan, Team Believe open juvenile  
Olivia Coyle, Team Believe open juvenile  
Taylor Olender, Team Image  
Lily Young, Skyliners junior  
Alessandra Stark, Oswego State Ice Effects  
Brooke Claver, Oswego State Ice Effects  
Ginny Faunce, Oswego State Ice Effects  
Nicole Evans, Oswego State Ice Effects  
Shannon McGuinness, Oswego State Ice Effects  
Jessica Hamburg, Team Image  
Cassady Konu, Skyliners senior, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
Georgia Halmo, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
Jenna Mcklusky, University of Delaware intercollegiate

Natasha Gurevich, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
Sophia Schein, Washington University in St. Louis, intercollegiate  
Zoe Gilson, Mirror Images intermediate

## NORTH CAROLINA

Sarah Abdelghafour, Charlotte Synchro  
Naomi Ghebremichael, Washington University in St. Louis, intercollegiate  
Ellie McGlynn, Emerald Blades  
Shea Theel, Capital Ice Chips

## OHIO

Ashley Talpas, Adrian College varsity synchronized/intercollegiate  
Marah Croley, Adrian College varsity synchronized  
Anastasia Attali, Cleveland Ice Storm junior  
Zoe Krantz, Intensity intermediate  
Kaci McComis, Chiller Synchro  
Elizabeth Horwitz, Gilmour Academy  
Ryan Kay, Gilmour Academy  
Nyla Chandler, Intensity intermediate  
Aby Howard, Cleveland Ice Storm junior  
Alexa Hewitt, Cleveland Ice Storm open juvenile  
Jasmine Gudin, Cleveland Ice Storm junior  
Riley Welsh, Cleveland Ice Storm junior  
Fiona Conway, Intensity intermediate  
Mia Fahey, Chiller Synchro  
Caitlyn Mularchik, Padua Franciscan High School  
Brynn McGrail, Chiller Synchro  
Eve Hussell, The Ohio State University intercollegiate  
Hannah Powers, Cleveland Ice Storm junior

## OKLAHOMA

Diana Griffin, Washington University in St. Louis, intercollegiate

## PENNSYLVANIA

Liz Herman, Adrian College varsity synchronized  
Sarah Shaheen, Carnegie Mellon University intercollegiate  
Yvonne Burke, Skyliners junior  
Ava Thompson, Team Delaware junior  
Jordan Hoppy, Team Delaware junior  
Genevieve Bevenour, Team Delaware junior  
Jillian Saloma, Skyliners junior  
Lily Delle-Levine, Hamilton College intercollegiate  
Jenny Molyneaux, Western PA High School  
Megan Pine, Western PA High School  
Holly Ebner, Steel City Blades  
Piper McGee, Team Delaware junior  
Channah Weiner, Steel City Blades  
Shoshana Weiner, Steel City Blades  
Emma DeShay, Western PA High School  
Lauren Pinder, Valley Forge Cadettes  
Elizabeth Brown, Team Delaware junior  
Kendall Angstadt, Team Delaware junior  
Anna Volk, University of Delaware collegiate synchronized  
Victoria Bobowska, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
Caraline Herman, Team Image

## RHODE ISLAND

Emma Rademacher, Boston University collegiate synchronized  
Zoey Stachurski, Mount St. Charles Academy HS  
Elaria Tedeschi, Mount St. Charles Academy HS  
Madelyn Grant, Star Mates  
Kayla McCarthy, Quinnipiac University intercollegiate  
Marisa Mobilia, Quinnipiac University intercollegiate  
Mikaela Dicomitis, Team Excel collegiate

## TENNESSEE

Sherrina Hwang, Dartmouth College intercollegiate

## TEXAS

Kaitlin Parisi, Adrian College varsity synchronized  
Julie Tran, University of Denver intercollegiate  
Kayleigh Barnhart, University of Denver intercollegiate

## VERMONT

Hannah Gibbs, South Burlington Vermont High School  
Lisa Carter, South Burlington Vermont High School  
Sofia Andersen-Harrington, South Burlington Vermont High School  
Vanessa George, South Burlington Vermont High School  
Natalia Martorella, South Burlington Vermont High School

## VIRGINIA

Ceci Picard, Adrian College varsity synchronized  
Katie Budovec, Team Ashburn  
Gwyneth Collins, Boston University intercollegiate  
Caila Grant, Team Ashburn  
Alexandra Strizek, DC EDGE  
Stella Lee, Georgetown University intercollegiate  
Josie Walyus, Team Ashburn  
Gabriella Quintero, DC EDGE  
Angela Boshier, Liberty University  
Hannah Pulley, Liberty University  
Isabelle McElhinny, DC EDGE  
Rhiannon-Joy Branch, Richmond synchro  
Sarah Regan, DC EDGE  
Hannah Beauchamp, Richmond synchro  
Robin Schroeder, Team Ashburn  
Katie McDonnell, DC EDGE  
Amber Garcha, Team Ashburn  
Elizabeth Cox, Richmond synchro  
Emily Zou, UC Berkeley intercollegiate  
Sabrina Trout, University of Delaware Collegiate  
Samantha Lamb, University of Michigan collegiate  
Nina Sebastien, Lexettes  
Raquel Robinson, Team Ashburn

## WASHINGTON

April Hopcroft, UMass collegiate synchronized

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

Madeline Morman, DC EDGE  
Bebhinn Crowley, DC EDGE

## WISCONSIN

Kylie Kronstedt, Fond du Lac Blades junior  
Elizabeth Williams, Wisconsin Inspire junior  
Emma Barnett, Wisconsin Inspire junior  
Anna Papenfuss, Fond du Lac Blades junior  
Lilian D'Amico, Northwood Diamond Blades  
Arianna Korb, Fond du Lac Blades junior  
Morgan Vogds, Fond du Lac Blades junior  
Athena Wenger, Wisconsin Inspire junior  
Brooke Pagels, Northwood Diamond Blades  
Clarice Michalski, Marquette University intercollegiate  
Sophia Heran, Wisconsin Inspire open juvenile  
Katrina Kallas, Fond du Lac Blades junior  
Anna Sabel, Fond du Lac Blades junior  
Dellana Graeber, Northwood Diamond Blades  
Grace Witulski, Northwood Diamond Blades  
Mya Dhaseleer, Northwood Diamond Blades  
Tori Walquist, University of Delaware intercollegiate  
Lindsey Blacher, Washington University in St. Louis intercollegiate  
Emily Johnson, Fond du Lac Blades junior



**Editor's note:** Toshawa Andrews, the mother of Team USA member Starr Andrews, was selected as one of U.S. Figure Skating's eight Get Up Ambassadors for 2021. Her story and those of the other special honorees will appear throughout the rest of the year in SKATING magazine.

# 'A SENSE OF FREEDOM'

Heart condition can't keep Toshawa Andrews away from ice

BY ROBYN CLARKE

Toshawa Andrews has always felt a connection with figure skating.

Something about the rink calls to her; it is a pull that she cannot explain. The ice is where she feels happiest and where the weight of the world disappears. The moment her blade hits the ice, she can breathe, and the cacophony of everyday life is suddenly placed on mute.

How fitting, then, that the ice holds the origins of her Get Up story.

One afternoon about 15 years ago, Andrews had gone to the rink for a moves-in-the-field test when she got the first indication that something was off. The test was designed to evaluate whether he possessed the proper skills to advance to the next level of skating, and initially, she attributed the chest pain to anxiety.

"Of course, I'm thinking, 'Oh you're anxious. You need to calm down. Stop, it's not that serious,'" Andrews said.

However, the pain continued through the night, and when she woke up the next morning without feeling any better, she decided to go to the hospital.

Even on the way there, it did not occur to her that what was happening might be something serious. She was more focused on all that she needed to do, figuring this would merely be a pit stop on her way to work.

That ended up not being the case.

To determine what was causing the pain, the hospital's medical staff collected bloodwork and ran various tests. The results revealed she had had a heart attack.

Andrews was in disbelief.

"I need to go to work," she said.

How could she have had a heart attack at 30 years old?

Initially, medical personnel believed it

was due to myocarditis, a rare condition that causes inflammation of the heart muscle. It wasn't until her third pregnancy when a maternal-fetal specialist suggested she visit the women's heart team at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center that she found out what had actually caused the heart attack that day.

that oxygen and blood flow to your heart, and therefore, that's what causes the heart attack."

The difference Bairey-Merz has made in Andrews' life is nothing short of profound.

"She's been just a miracle in my life, and the research that has been done since I've been diagnosed [is incredible]," said Andrews,

whose daughter, Starr, is a member of Team USA. "So many women are coming forward and realizing, 'It wasn't the onions. I'm really having issues here.'"

Life with microvascular coronary dysfunction is unpredictable. Andrews may feel fine one day but experience symptoms the next. When she does have a flare-up, she spends the day in bed, resting and taking it easy.

She takes it all in stride, leaning on her family and her faith to carry her through the bouts of adversity.

"My thing is just, for me to stay healthy, you cannot allow any type of negative vibrations to enter your soul," she said. "So my support system has been my family as well as me just being an advocate of prayer."

Andrews has had more than a dozen heart attacks since receiving the diagnosis, but she hasn't let her condition keep her away from the rink. Though she may not be able to skate consistently, she hits the ice whenever she can and said doing so is therapeutic.

"When I'm on the ice, I don't think about anyone," she said. "There's such a sense of freedom on the ice. It's almost like this effervescent feeling that

you never get enough of, and you're always craving more, more, more."

In other words, that pull toward the rink is still there, drawing her closer and gently reeling her in. By following it, Andrews is showing others that what matters isn't how many times you fall, but how many times you get up.



Toshawa Andrews, center, with her doctors Noel Bairey-Merz, left, and Margo Minissian, right.

Dr. Noel Bairey-Merz diagnosed her with microvascular coronary dysfunction, a condition that affects the heart's small vessels.

"Basically, what happens with my arteries is that when most people work out, your arteries expand to allow more blood flow and oxygen through them," Andrews said. "Well, mine constrict. So if they constrict, it blocks



## FRASER FSC JOINS ONYX INFINITY SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Fraser Figure Skating Club has joined the Detroit-metro area Onyx Infinity Synchronized Skating program.

Formed in 2019, Onyx Infinity Synchronized Skating includes figure skaters from six rinks across metro Detroit: St. Clair Shores FSC, Mt. Clemens FSC, Onyx Suburban Skating Academy in Rochester and Macomb and Lakeland Skating Club in Waterford.

Fraser FSC, located at Fraser Hockeyland, becomes the sixth rink to join the Onyx Infinity teams.

"Fraser has a long tradition of excellence in synchronized skating, from the original Fraserettes to the more recent Fraser Eclipse teams," Onyx Infinity co-director Deanna Willmarth said. "We're excited to welcome the skaters and parents into our growing program. By combining our efforts



**SYNCHRONIZED SKATING**

*We are stronger together!*



and collaborating to build teams, we can all be more competitive in this sport."

"Fraser Figure Skating Club is glad to be part of the Onyx Infinity family and we look forward to the bright future ahead," Jenette Maitz, director of Fraser FSC, said. "We are happy to have synchronized skating back in the Fraser Hockeyland facility."



**The Greater Chicagoland Skate USA Committee and the Chicago Figure Skating Club hosted the first virtual competition that received a sanction by U.S. Figure Skating, in March 2021. A total of 140 skaters from 14 states participated in this historic event. Competitors had the opportunity to participate in program, compulsory, jump, spin and creative solo events. National accountant Ed Mann and 12 U.S. Figure Skating judges volunteered to ensure the success of the event.**

## THORNGREN, ECKENROED RECEIVE FAIRBANKS AWARDS

Lindsay Thorngren and Samuel Eckenroed are the recipients of the inaugural Mabel Fairbanks Skatingly Yours Fund awards in the Up and Coming and Developmental categories, U.S. Figure Skating announced in April.

The recipients join Starr Andrews, who received the Fairbanks' Elite award in January. The fund supports the training and development of promising figure skaters who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).

Thorngren, who placed sixth at the 2021 U.S. Championships, was selected for the Up and Coming award of \$10,000 to pursue her figure skating goals. The 2020 U.S. junior champion, a member of Team USA and the Ice House of New Jersey Figure Skating Club, impressed the selection

committee with her maturity and commitment to the sport.

"Lindsay's recent competitive history highlights her potential and how promising her future is in skating," selection committee member Ouida Robins said. "The committee also appreciated that Lindsay looks up to her competitors; to us, it showed that she recognizes the skill set required to be a top-ranked skater in the world and her desire to achieve this goal."

Thorngren's mother is from the Dominican Republic and is of Caribbean descent.

Eckenroed, a member of the Dallas Figure Skating Club, received the Developmental award of \$5,000. An intermediate-level competitor, Eckenroed was greeted warmly by fellow skaters at his rink upon hearing the news. Several members,

including his coaches and U.S. World Team member Ashley Cain-Gribble, created a video to congratulate him. The selection committee was impressed with Eckenroed's research and knowledge of Fairbanks, for whom the award is bestowed. Eckenroed is African American.

"Samuel had a strong interview," Robins said. "His research on Mabel was remarkable. Samuel also demonstrated a true appreciation of the award and the assistance it would provide him in reaching an elite level in figure skating. He could be a wonderful future ambassador for U.S. Figure Skating."

The Mabel Fairbanks Skatingly Yours Fund, which will grant three annual awards, was made possible through a generous lead gift by the Lisa McGraw Figure Skating Foundation.

*Lindsay Thorngren*



*Samuel Eckenroed*





# 'A BALL OF FIRE'

A fearless approach, love of skating propel Levito

BY KAMA STIGALL

"A ball of fire coated in ice" is how Isabeau Levito's mother, Chiara Garberi, describes her daughter. It is a fitting description, given Levito's presence when she skates. She is a dynamo, flowing effortlessly but mightily across the ice.

Combining her power and passion with the sounds of the dramatic "Malagueña," the 14-year-old from Mount Holly, New Jersey, captured the junior title at the 2021 U.S. Championships in Las Vegas in January.

The victory was especially sweet for Levito as she finished second in the junior event at the 2020 U.S. Championships. Levito lost by fewer than five points to another New Jersey-based skater, Lindsay Thorngren.

Like many skaters this season, Levito's training was hampered by the closures of many rinks due to COVID-19.

"It was a very fulfilling experience, especially because it was a challenge to train for the competition due to the pandemic," she said.

Regardless of the obstacles, Levito performed solidly in Las Vegas. Wearing a fiery red dress, she started her quest to a gold medal with a bubbly performance to "Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps" by Doris Day. The teenager earned 65.66 points and secured the top spot heading into the free skate.

In that second segment of the competition, she landed seven triple jumps, including a triple flip-triple toe combination in the

second half of her program. She also received Level 4s on all of her spins. Her flamenco-flavored presentation earned high component marks, as Levito skated with pizzazz. She ended the free skate with a score of 121.82, for a combined total of 187.48 points.

Her recent victory is just the latest accomplishment in an already impressive career. Levito began skating at the age of 3.

"I put her in skating because I was questioning her balance," Garberi said.

Her daughter immediately took to the sport. She burst onto the national scene in 2018, winning the juvenile title in San Jose, California. Since then, she has enjoyed a steady climb up the national ranks, becoming the U.S. intermediate silver medalist in 2019.

Garberi takes a methodical approach when it comes to Levito's skating.

"I like to take one step at a time," she said. "Each achievement is like a step to being a good skater. I have always seen my approach as to never create an obstacle in her growth as a skater and give her all the tools she needs to reach her potential. I have always had the approach of 'let's see what she can do.'"

Levito is on track to accomplish even more. Training at the Igloo in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, under her longtime coach Yulia Kuznetsova, Levito skates for three to six hours a day. For the 2021–22 season, she plans to move up to the senior division.

"Competing as a senior will be much more difficult," Levito said. "Yet I am excited

for my first year as a senior. My overall goal is to fit in, to look like a senior and to skate like one."

She is planning to up the ante on the technical side as well.

"The quad toe loop is an element I look forward to performing," Levito said.

Kuznetsova has high expectations for her student.

"I want her to be able to show in competitions what she can do in practice," Kuznetsova said.

Despite next season being a bit of a question mark due to COVID-19 restrictions in many countries, Levito continues to lay the groundwork for a successful season.

"Due to the pandemic, I am unsure of what international competitions will truly happen, although I am excited to test the waters," she said. "I am mainly focusing on delivering clean programs and improving from each competition."

As she prepares to move into the senior ranks, Levito's inner toughness will be a strength.

"She mastered her mental prep to competition at young age and became independent early on," Garberi said. "By age 5, she was undoing her skates, and soon after, I couldn't help her put her skates on. Now I can see how skating and all that comes with it, in particular when she leaves for competition out of the country, has helped her develop an independent and poised attitude toward many aspects of life."

A genuine love for figure skating and dedication to her craft figures to propel her forward.

"She is always willing to get better," Kuznetsova said. "She loves skating. Skating is her life."

Isabeau Levito sews up the junior title with her performance to the flamenco-style song "Malagueña."



Levito enjoys some off-ice time with her friend Annika.





Isabeau Levito shows off her personality during her short program at the 2021 U.S. Championships in Las Vegas.



Levito earned her second U.S. title, claiming gold in the junior ranks.

## GETTING TO KNOW ISABEAU

**Age:** 14

**Year in school:** Ninth grade

**Skating Club:** Skating Club of Southern New Jersey

**Instagram:** @isabeau.levito  
I also made an account for my cat — @lana\_the\_snow\_bengal.

**What is on your Spotify or Pandora playlist right now?** I play music every off-ice training session and it's basically a mix of throwbacks — well, it depends if songs from 2016 are considered throwbacks.

**What is your dream vacation?** I really want to go to Italy!

**What is something SKATING magazine readers would be surprised to learn about you?** My friend, Emily, and I would make little mini movies in our free time. We made one called *The Pickle Murder*.

**What are you watching on Netflix?** "Grey's Anatomy"



# 'AN AMAZING DRIVE TO IMPROVE'

Prober on track to have success in senior ranks

BY KAMA STIGALL

Eric Prober was not the favorite to win the junior event at the 2021 U.S. Championships in Las Vegas. However, after two strong performances, the dark horse became the champion.

"Getting that medal on that podium was really cool," Prober said. "I felt like I accomplished something."

Third after the short program, but less than two points from the lead, Prober was in striking distance. For his free skate, he performed to the emotional song "You Are the Reason" by Calum Scott. Prober skated with freedom and lightness, checking off his technical elements with ease.

"Honestly, when he finished his long program, it felt like one of those amazing sports moments you see on TV where if there had been spectators in the stands there would have been a standing ovation," Prober's coach Laura Pizzelanti said. "I had tears of joy at the end of his performance."

Prober, who represents the Panthers

*Eric Prober plans to add quadruple jumps to his repertoire as enters the senior ranks this season.*

Figure Skating Club in Coral Springs, Florida, earned a free skate score of 127.79 with a total competition score of 192.83. Winning the title brought about a mixture of emotions for the 18-year-old skater.

"It was exhilarating and a little bit weird," he said. "Exhilarating because here I am in the City of Lights doing what I do best, but weird because instead of actual people in the stands, you have a bunch of cutouts looking at you with the same facial expression. It was still a nice surprise to find my family in the stands, even in pictures."

In order to reach the top of the podium, Prober worked diligently throughout the season to improve upon his shortcomings.

"Eric has the most amazing fast-twitch muscles, hence his speed and power on the ice," Pizzelanti said. "However, I felt he did everything fast, including his skating skills and choreography. We talked a lot about having different paces in the program. Eric worked hard to adjust this, which in turn calmed him down and helped his technical consistency. He has realized the value in his skating skills and has spent more time honing them."

Prober began working with Evgeny Platov, the 1994 and 1998 Olympic ice dance champion, in late 2020. The young skater first met Platov while attending a skating skills class. From there, the duo started working together more frequently.

"Eric has an amazing drive to improve," Platov said. "We worked together on his skating skills and his programs, specifically on polishing them. I broke it down for Eric and showed him how many points he could earn

if he improved his components. We focused on his edges, lines and perfecting every detail."

One of Prober's biggest strengths as a competitor is his ability to cope with pressure.

"Some skaters are the kings of practice but can't do it when it counts," Platov said. "If Eric is under the gun, he can do it."

Prober and his coaching team have big plans for the 2021–22 season.

"For next season, I would like to see Eric combine his newfound consistency with a new artistic style — faster, new spins, stronger triple-triple combinations and the quad toe," Pizzelanti said.

From a technical perspective, Prober has specific elements he is focusing on.

"I'm working on my spins and making them far more superior from last year," Prober said. "Also, I'm working on all the quads I feel comfortable with."

Prober plans to move up to the senior division. The transition from junior to senior can be challenging, but Prober is taking a balanced approach.

"My goal for next season as a senior man is to make my skating a lot better and to really mature as a skater, but also to have fun and embrace this opportunity," he said.


With a new title and an improved skill set, Prober is poised to make an impact. Like many other skaters, he is excited to travel again and show what he can do on the ice.

"My goals internationally are to skate in as many countries as possible," Prober said. "To see the world and land some quads."

*Eric Prober's prospering skating career is supported by his tightknit family, which includes his parents, Nonna and Bruce, and his sister, Ariella.*







Prober celebrates  
a powerful and  
seamless free skate  
in Las Vegas.



A dark horse entering the  
2021 U.S. Championships,  
Prober put it all together  
in Las Vegas to secure the  
gold medal.

## GETTING TO KNOW ERIC

**Age:** 18

**Year in school:** 12th grade at Xceed Preparatory Academy

**Training locations:** Rink on the Beach in Pompano Beach, Florida, and Palm Beach Ice Works in West Palm Beach, Florida

**Instagram:** @King\_eric\_1211

**What is on your Spotify or Pandora playlist right now?** A lot of rap because it gets me pumped up for my skating sessions.

**What is your dream vacation?** Go to Bora Bora for a couple of weeks and enjoy the views.

**What is something SKATING magazine readers would be surprised to learn about you?** I also do jiu-jitsu and play chess.

**What are you watching on Netflix now?** I'm not currently watching anything on Netflix but I'm waiting for the next season of "Outer Banks" to come out.

**When you are not skating, what do you like to do for fun?** I love to play basketball and fish.

JAY ADEFF/US: FIGURE SKATING



# CREATIVE PURPOSE

World Junior champion Delmore thrives on exploring the intricate details

BY LOIS ELFMAN

Now coaching for two decades, 1998 World Junior champion, U.S. pewter medalist in novice and junior and 10-time senior competitor Derrick Delmore is inspired by skaters.

"It's rewarding for me to see their growth — from my young skaters just starting out to my adult skaters," Delmore, 42, said. "For the younger skaters, it's seeing their growth not only on the ice but off the ice as well. I think of my job as being more than just a skating coach. I'm also helping to shape the skaters into young adults, and hopefully I'm helping to instill important life lessons."

At this point in his career, Delmore,

who has coached in the Los Angeles area for almost 14 years, embraces the idea of always believing. He eschews preconceived notions of what people are going to be able to do.

"Time after time ... I've been really surprised about what some of my pupils have been able to accomplish," he said. "It's this constant reminder for me to never underestimate the abilities of anyone."

"I want my athletes to always believe in what they're doing and know their potential is limitless."

For Delmore, his World Junior title is a reminder of the power of positive thinking. He'll never forget standing on top of the

podium and hearing the national anthem. It felt validating because people doubted that he'd be able to go to college full-time and skate competitively. At the time, he was attending Stanford, a world-renowned, highly competitive university.

Highlights of his competitive days include making friends with people from all over the country and traveling to international competitions. He got to see places in the world he'd never otherwise see and do it with people who became lifelong friends.

He believes skaters should be training and competing for themselves, which he realized toward the end of his competitive days. Although his highest finish in the senior division at the U.S. Championships was fifth in 1998, he felt at his best when he tapped into his true desire.

"I think I was at my best at the very end of my skating career, because I finally was doing it for myself," Delmore said. "I didn't feel like I was out there every day trying to skate for the approval of judges or my coach or my mom. I truly was out there because I wanted to do it for myself, and that's when I felt I was at my best. That's something I try to instill in my students."

Delmore's coaching philosophy also includes never giving up. He cites Adam Rippon, whom he worked with leading up to the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, as an example of this.

"He was going to do everything he could to make that Olympic dream come true," said Delmore, who was part of Rippon's coaching team in PyeongChang. "Look where he is today. It's so amazing and impressive."

In the spring, Delmore, a member of the U.S. Figure Skating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force, was called upon to choreograph a program in tribute to the late Mabel Fairbanks that would debut at Figure Skating in Harlem's (FSH) virtual gala. He envisioned a trio for his longtime student and U.S. competitor Starr Andrews, pairs skater Vanessa James and French ladies champion Maé-Bérénice Méité, but when Méité was injured and James was unable to leave Canada (she recently teamed with Eric Radford), he adapted his vision.

"There were definitely a lot of challenges, but we made it work," said Delmore, who had hoped the three skaters would be filmed in New York as an ensemble. Andrews was

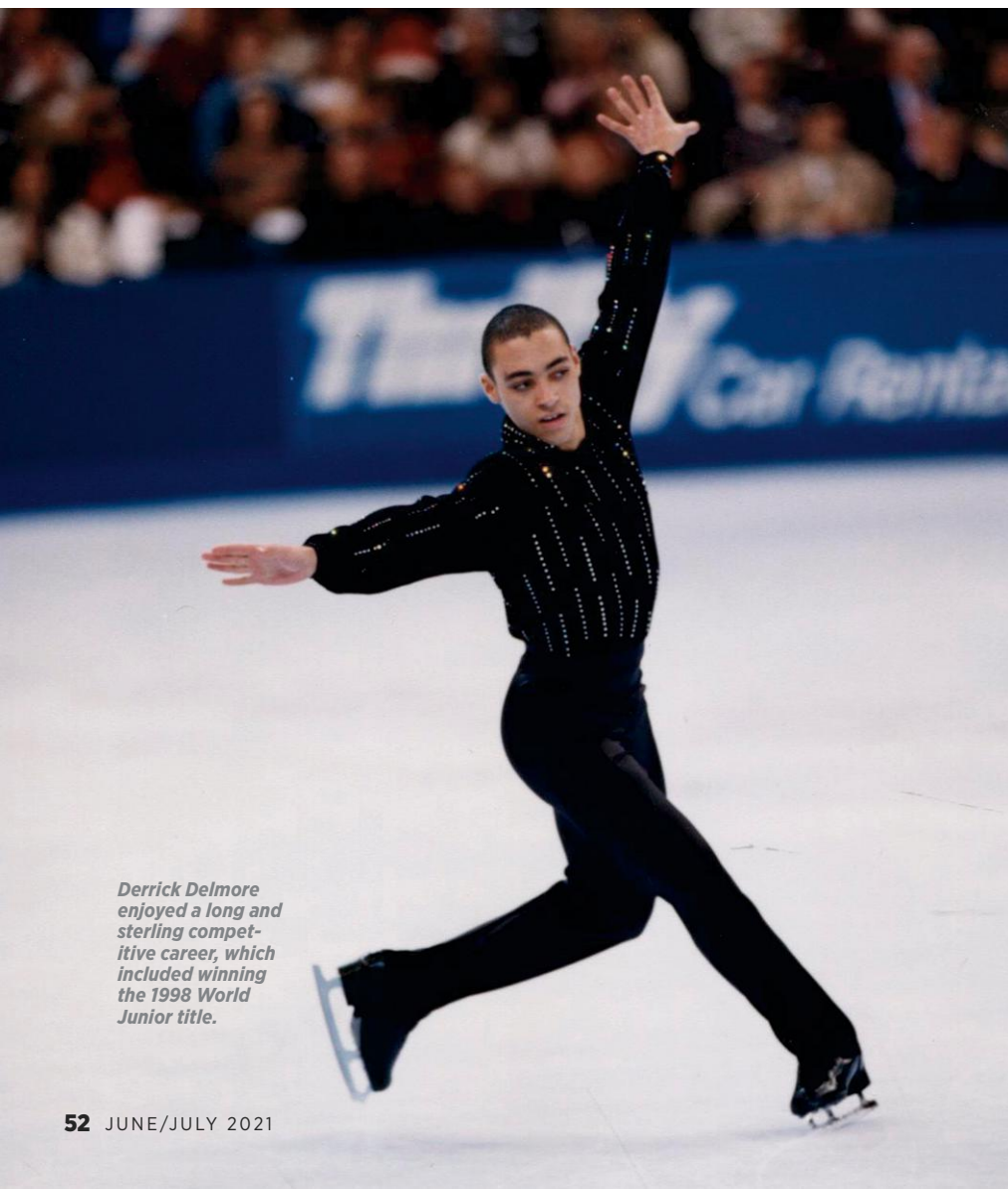


PHOTO BY PAUL HARVATH

*Derrick Delmore enjoyed a long and sterling competitive career, which included winning the 1998 World Junior title.*



## DERRICK DELMORE

a commuter marriage. The long-term plan is to live in the same city, but as they build their careers, this works well.

"During the week, we're both so busy with work and have long hours," Delmore said. "The times that we have been together on a workday, at the end of the day we're exhausted and we both bring so much work home. ... We don't really have time for each other in the evenings.

"The weekends really are our time to spend together. Either I fly up or he flies down. For both of us, we would love for life to slow down a little bit, but at our age and the points we are in our careers right now, we're making the most of our opportunities. This is the time for us to push hard in our careers. We understand that."

This past year had its challenges. Delmore recalled thinking that COVID-19 would keep skaters off the ice for a few weeks, but that turned into months. He got creative with Zoom off-ice classes and also used the time to choose and edit music.

When the rinks finally reopened, finding ice time was not easy, so the skaters went from rink to rink. Competition turned into virtual events, but Delmore and his colleagues did their best to keep everything positive. Skate America and the 2021 U.S. Championships provided fresh momentum.

"At this point, everyone is excited for the potential of in-person events," he said.

*Delmore coaches standout Starr Andrews during the warm-up at 2019 Skate America.*



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



JULIE WEISBERG PHOTOGRAPHY

*With burgeoning careers in different cities, Delmore and husband Dr. Kenneth Leong make the most of their weekend time together.*

filmed in New York by Jordan Cowan of On Ice Perspectives and James was filmed in Canada, with Cowan doing a clever edit to meld their performances.

"I wanted to create a program that highlighted their strengths as young Black women who are at the forefront of the sport," said Delmore, who performed with FSH in 2003. "They are representative of a population of skaters that you don't normally see at the top of the sport. They are meant to be where they are and nobody is going to hold them back."

He went through several pieces of music, ultimately choosing the song "Listen" from the film *Dreamgirls*, which is sung by Beyoncé, finding the song's lyrics reflective of the journey of the three skaters. The text mentions not being held back, which was certainly Fairbanks' story.

Delmore began coaching after graduating from Stanford University in 2000. When he returned to the East Coast and decided to continue skating, he knew he also had to earn a living. His then-coach, Shirley Hughes, had him work with some of her skaters, for which he remains grateful.

"I fell in love with it from the beginning," Delmore said. "When I decided to

hang up my competitive skates, I turned around and I was a full-time coach. I realized it was something I truly connected with and loved."

He coaches at The Rinks – Lakewood Ice in Lakewood, California. When he first moved to Southern California, he worked at several rinks — sometimes coaching at four rinks in one week — but he settled into Lakewood as his main rink several years ago. He works alongside Peter Kongkasem, Ivan Dinev and Angela Nikodinov as well as former rhythmic gymnast Anastasiya Sharenkova. Additional coaches joining their team include Naomi Nari Nam Poor, Amy Evidente and Jonathan Cassar.

"We all bring different stuff to the table that I think is comprehensive for our program and for all the skaters," said Delmore, who has worked with Andrews since she was at the juvenile level.

Delmore's personal life is also thriving. He and his husband of four years, Dr. Kenneth Leong, an internist trained in osteopathic medicine, met when Leong was doing a fellowship in Southern California. After the fellowship, Leong accepted a position in his native San Francisco, and they deftly balance



## SKATING'S BEST LESSONS SHARED

Members of the Athletes Advisory Committee share the most valuable things that skating has taught them in this installment of Athlete Corner.

Determination, staying true to oneself on the ice and discipline are some of the most important lessons learned, according to these former and current Team USA athletes.

At last month's Governing Council, a new delegation of athletes was elected to serve on the Athletes Advisory Committee for the 2021–22 season. They are: **Chair:** Rachael Flatt. **Board of Directors:** Rachael Flatt, Jenna Longo, Colin McManus, Felicia Zhang. **Nominating Committee:** Anastasia Cannuscio (East), Alexander Johnson (Midwest), Jonathan Cassar (Pacific); **Ladies:** Pooja Kalyan (vice chair), Ting Cui, Rachael Flatt, Christina Gao, Katie McBeath, Hannah Miller, Mirai Nagasu, Paige Rydberg, Livvy Shilling, Caroline Zhang; **Men:** Alexander Johnson (vice chair), Max Aaron, Jason Brown, Jonathan Cassar, Grant Hochstein, Ross Miner, Jordan Moeller, Camden Pulkinen, Sean Rabbitt, Douglas Razzano; **Pairs:** Timothy LeDuc (vice chair), Nathan Bartholomay, Ashley Cain-Gribble, Marissa Castelli, Tarah Kayne, Christopher Knierim, Brynne McIsaac, Mervin Tran, Tiffany Vise Baldwin, Felicia Zhang; **Ice dance:** Anastasia Cannuscio (vice chair), Alexandra Aldridge, Logan Bye, Tori Alexander, Isabella Cannuscio, Emily Day, Ryan Devereaux, Damian Dodge, Colin McManus, Lorraine McNamara, Tyler Vollmer; **Synchronized skating:** Tessa Hedges (vice chair), Jordan Alexander, Tori Alexander, Sarah Checkosky, Jenna Longo, Ashley Mulhern, Stephen Murray, Sharon Neff, Gabriella Romano, Devin Wang

### ISABELLA CANNUSCIO



#### LADIES

**Skating club/current location:** University of Delaware FSC/Newark, Delaware

**How old were you when you started skating?** 3. My aunt took me and my sister skating one day and I have skated ever since.

**What is the most valuable thing skating taught you?** Skating has taught me so much — responsibility, teamwork, hard work, perseverance, patience ... the list goes on. The most important thing I have learned is discipline. When I skated, I would wake up early, skate 4–5 sessions, work out and then coach. I knew I couldn't skip out on anything because if I did, the goals I set for myself wouldn't be attainable or achieved. I now apply this mindset to my everyday life to be able to achieve my professional and life goals.



### TARAH KAYNE

#### PAIRS

**Skating club/current location:** Skating Club of New York/Canton, Michigan

**How old were you when you started skating?** 6

**What is the most valuable thing skating taught you?** The importance of always staying true to both myself and my vision when I take the ice. I know that if I don't believe in the story I want to tell, no one else will, either.

### ERIKA HOFFMAN

#### SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

**Skating club/current location:** Skating Club of Boston/Watertown, Massachusetts

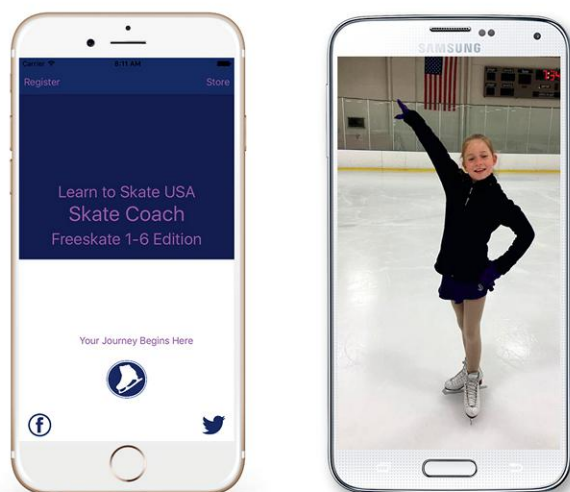
**How old were you when you started skating?** 18 months old

**What is the most valuable thing skating taught you?** Skating taught me many valuable life lessons, including maintaining a strong work ethic as well as the importance of time management. Determination, however, stands out as the most significant thing I've learned through my years as an athlete. It is something I've carried with me through school, my career off the ice and coaching. No matter the circumstances or setbacks, committing to working enthusiastically and tirelessly toward a goal is important in all aspects of life.





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## THE Michelle Kwan COLLECTION

Michelle Kwan, the most-decorated athlete in U.S. Figure Skating history, has appeared alone on the cover of SKATING magazine a record eight times in an inspiring career that spanned more than two decades. For the first time, these eight covers are available for you to enjoy and treasure. This timeless collection is sure to evoke memories, featuring the skating icon as a 13-year-old rising star through her induction into the hall of fame. As an added bonus, Michelle is featured on a beautiful replica cover that is only available in this collection. Each of the nine covers has been reproduced on a high-quality paper, perfect for placing in 8 x 10 frames. It's the ideal gift for Michelle Kwan fans or a beautiful way to dress up your home or office.



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# Learn to Skate USA celebrates five years of 'SKATE TO GREAT'

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BY TAYLOR DEAN

On June 1, 2016, Learn to Skate USA launched with a mission to provide a fun and positive experience that would instill a lifelong love of skating. This year, the program celebrates five years of teaching children and adults empowerment, confidence and personal strength through skating lessons.

Learn to Skate USA embarked as an enhanced iteration of U.S. Figure Skating's successful Basic Skills Program, which had taught nearly 3 million people to skate since 1968. The biggest difference from the original program was endorsements from U.S. Figure Skating, USA Hockey and US Speedskating, the three ice sport national governing bodies that rely on skaters to have basic skating skills before advancing.

"Although there was a curriculum directed toward each facet of ice sports, it was a true challenge to convince a hockey enthusiast that the U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills Program would make their skater a better hockey player," said Cathryn Schwab, chair of the Learn to Skate USA subcommittee. "All that changed in 2016 with the rebrand and outreach of Learn to Skate USA. The broader appeal of Learn to Skate USA has allowed membership growth and exposure like never before."

With the support of these organizations, the door opened to more skaters and appealed to a broader public, especially those who didn't want to go through a figure skating pipeline.

"It's an amazing endorsement," said Susi Wehrli McLaughlin, U.S. Figure Skating senior director of membership. "Together, we've seen thousands of smiles, first glides and accomplishments made by our members,

and we look forward to many, many more in the years to come."

In addition to securing endorsements and additional support from the U.S. Ice Rink Association, Special Olympics and the Professional Skaters Association, Learn to Skate USA features curricula beyond the original Basic Skills. Skaters can choose from more than a dozen curricula, including Theatre On Ice, Adult and Speed.

The Snowplow Sam program gives children under the age of 6 a safe and positive environment to learn how to fall and get back up among other essential beginning skills. The Adaptive Skating and Special Olympics curriculum is tailored toward individuals with disabilities, ensuring that everyone can learn to skate, and further welcoming more people to the ice.

Since its inception, Learn to Skate USA has been successful in its mission, thanks to every director, instructor, business development specialist and individual behind the scenes helping the program grow. The hard work by everyone involved came to fruition in the 2018-19 season, when Learn to Skate USA broke its membership record, welcoming more than 140,000 skaters to the ice.

"We are grateful to all of the people involved with creating Learn to Skate USA and making it the program it is today," Wehrli McLaughlin said.

Learn to Skate USA launched with 10 business development specialists who took to the road and invited programs across the country to join the movement. Schwab was one of those 10.

"I've had the privilege of seeing just how much everyone involved cares about promoting youth ice sports, individual participants and the programs and clubs that offer them



opportunity," she said.

Now, three business development specialists — Laura Hushion (Eastern), Denise Hughes (Midwestern) and Michelle Lauerman (Pacific) — continue to help Learn to Skate USA programs thrive.

As Learn to Skate USA grew, so did the innovative opportunities. From the record book and instructor manual formed from the Basic Skills Program to the online management system, there are many tools directors, instructors and skaters use to enhance their skating journey.

"Learn to Skate USA continues to adapt and develop to be all that it can be for its membership," Schwab said, "from added resources like the Axel Club and Axel Curriculum ... to the Learn to Skate USA interactive app that allows skaters to track their practice and progress."

Those engaging resources are what helped keep skating alive throughout the past year. With the challenges of 2020, Schwab said the focus went on how to be there for members, instructors and directors and how Learn to Skate USA could offer encouragement, resources and support in such a difficult time.


"The team rolled up their sleeves, reached out to directors and created a variety of online and virtual experiences to provide education, support and engagement," she said. "Because of its broad appeal and the passion and expertise of those involved, just as Learn to Skate USA has broken membership records pre-pandemic, I have every confidence that it will thrive post-pandemic, offering fresh, fun opportunities for new ice skating enthusiasts and a proven system for clubs, programs and facilities to succeed with."

"Happy fifth birthday, Learn to Skate USA! I can't wait to see what the future holds."

*The original 10 business development specialists set across the country in 2016 to share the joy found through Learn to Skate USA. Pictured are the BDS specialists, with committee chairs, headquaters and external staff. (l-r, front row) Tami Spears, Susi Wehrli McLaughlin, Denise Hughes, Brenda Glidewell, Patti Brinkley, Carey Tinkelenberg, Cathryn Schwab, Kim Hines, Michelle Lauerman; (l-r, back row) Cody Gore, Alan Wolf, Jason Dilworth, Paula Wagener, Mark Fitzgerald, Lisa Musmanno Blue, Rick Ninko*







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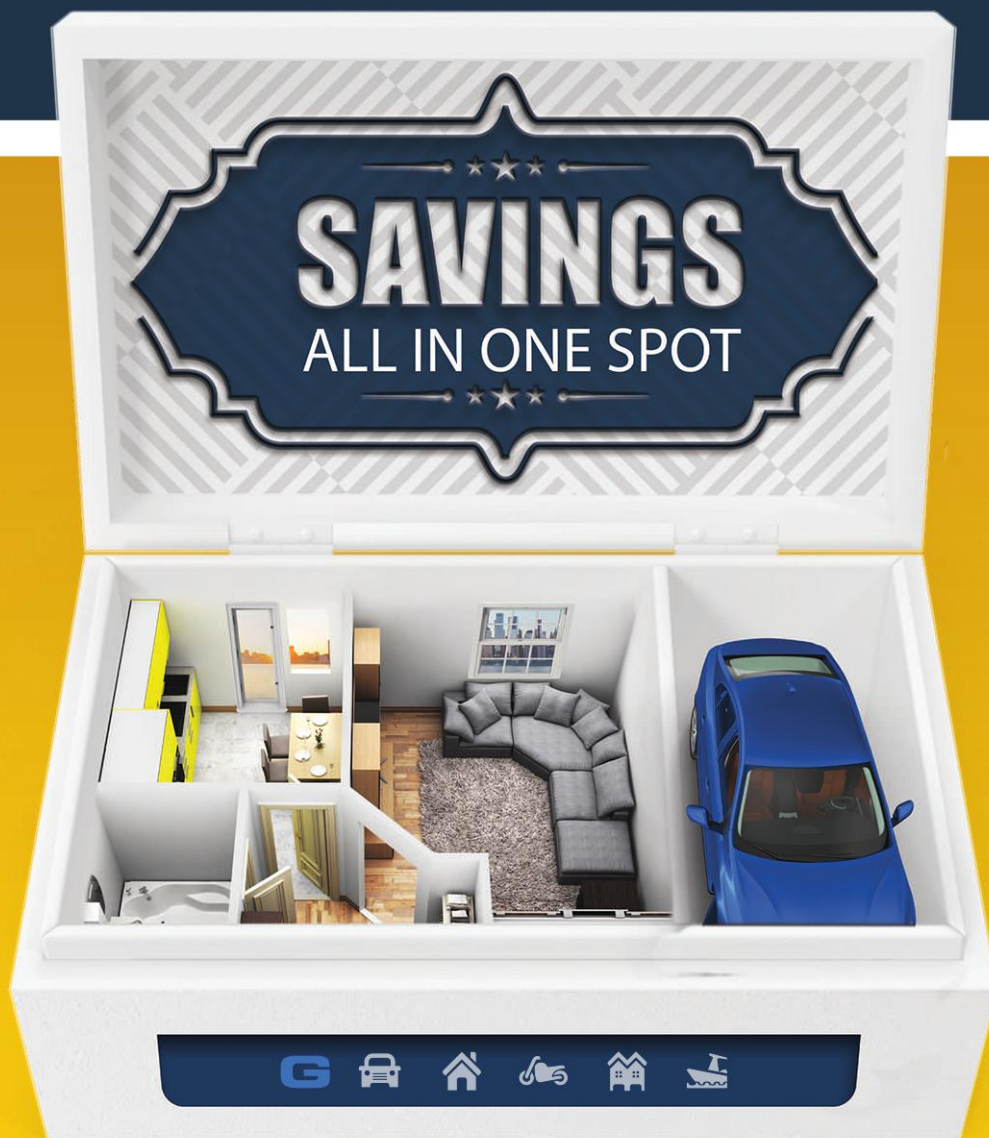
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## SMITH

William Sherman Smith, a former competitor and longtime national judge and referee, died on April 7, 2021, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was 69.

Representing the Tulsa Figure Skating Club, Will competed in singles and national pairs with his sister Susan. After his competitive career, he graduated from Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Will spent a brief time in Japan before returning to Tulsa to join the family's oil



business. He then began his judging and refereeing career, rising to national referee and judge for singles, pairs and synchronized skating. This year he would have received his 50-year judging award.

He was an ISU championship referee and judge, judging at the World Championships and the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy.

Will served for a number of years on the board of directors of U.S. Figure Skating and as Midwest vice president for three years. He was one of only four people to have been the chief referee for two U.S. Championships: Nashville in 1997 and St. Louis in 2006. The event in St. Louis was the first to be conducted under the international judging system. He also served as the commissioner at the Olympic Sports Festival in Oklahoma City.

He was a significant supporter of Colorado College and was named "Alumni of the Year" in 2019. His philanthropy included his father's alma mater Oklahoma State University and most recently his support to the Gathering Place and Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, as well as other special projects.

Known for his quick good humor and passion for the sport, his presence will be greatly missed by so many.

"Will had an extraordinary disposition and sense of humor," longtime judging colleague and friend Gale Tanger said. "He always said, 'Do things that surround you with people and projects that make you happy and continue to nurture your sense of humor.'"

He's also said, "Use all the power and influence you have to make a positive change for others."

## OFFICIALS RECOGNIZED AT GOVERNING COUNCIL

### EASTERN SECTION HONOREES

#### 40-year judges

Kathi Hochberg — Rye FSC  
Taffy Holliday — Greenwich SC  
Lawrence Mondschein — Essex SC of NJ  
Elizabeth Stark — Panthers FSC  
Laurene Ziegler — Tampa Bay SC

#### 25-year judges

Arthur Bahr — Skating Club of Boston  
Barbara Buch — Baltimore FSC  
Martha Buyer — Amherst SC  
Ellen Cameron — Hayden Rec. Centre FSC  
Lori Cochran — New Haven SC  
Allison Duarte — Yarmouth Ice Club  
Linda Elfman — North Shore SC  
Jennifer Goulet — Yarmouth Ice Club  
Marguerite Malik — Buffalo SC  
Stephanie Marquart — Red River Valley FSC  
Jenny Mast — University of Delaware FSC  
Andrew Meng — Champions' Edge SC  
Gail Rowland — Triangle FSC  
Michele Silak — St. Moritz ISC  
Robert Stein — Penguin FSC  
Margaret Szymanski — North Jersey FSC  
Christy Williams — Pines FSC

#### 25-year accountant

Michael Kudravetz — Colonial FSC

#### 25-year referees

John Cole — Baltimore FSC  
Judith Reiner — Washington FSC  
Deborah Weidman — Triangle FSC

#### 25-year clubs

SC of Fairfield County  
South Shore SC

### MIDWESTERN SECTION HONOREES

#### 40-year judges

Gay Cannon — Lone Star FSC  
Susan Crawford — FSC of Minneapolis  
Peggy Graham — Colorado SC  
Virginia Jamison — Copper Country SA  
Dorothy Jamison — Copper Country SA  
Susan McInnes — Denver FSC  
Lois Todd — Skokie Valley FSC  
Cathey Wetzel — FSC of New Orleans

#### 25-year judges

Elizabeth Bondar — Detroit SC  
Katherine Conrad — Silver Blades FSC of Greater KC  
Richard Dalley — Wyandotte FSC  
Elizabeth Harty — Burnsville-MN Valley FSC  
Mary Karen Henderson — Lansing SC  
Kristy Kasapis — Detroit SC  
Joan Lubischer — FSC of Omaha  
Lynda Lubratt — FSC of Minneapolis  
Wendy Meck — St. Paul FSC  
Mary Pottenger — Dallas FSC  
Nancy Yankura — Santa Fe SC

#### 25-year accountant

Thomas Tanger — Wisconsin FSC

#### 25-year referees

Kitty DeLio LaForte — Colorado SC  
Lee Gardner — St. Paul FSC  
Karen Wolanchuk — St. Clair Shores FSC

#### 25-year music

William Goen — Wayne-Westland FSC

### PACIFIC COAST SECTION HONOREES

#### 40-year judges

Janet Becht — Sun Valley FSC  
Laura Chinnock — Glacier Falls FSC  
Patricia Forbes — Peninsula SC  
Lois Long — Seattle SC  
Sharon Rogers — Individual Member

#### 25-year judges

Phillip Deaver — Portland ISC  
Jennifer Hartley — Dallas FSC  
Kathleen McBride — All Year FSC

#### 25-year accountant

Rebecca Oniki — Utah FSC

#### 25-year referees

Victoria Aversano — Tri-Valley FSC  
Caroline Guttman — Los Angeles FSC  
Sam Singer — Skating Club of San Francisco



## Senior Moves In The Field

Hannah Andrews — Kettle Moraine FSC  
 Alena Ang — Three Rivers FSC  
 Chelsea Avalos — Austin FSC  
 Caitlin Balint — Onyx-Suburban SA Academy  
 Meadow Begun — Washington FSC  
 Genevieve Bevenour — Wissahickon SC  
 Kristina Bland — Detroit SC  
 Mason Borden — Finer Edge FSC  
 Kennedy Boustead — Georgia FSC  
 Claire Cain — Washington FSC  
 Angelina Cao — Carousel Sherwood FSC  
 Caitlin Chae — Rye FSC  
 Ashley Chang — Denver FSC  
 Kyra Chen — North County FSC  
 Sean Chien — Skating Club of Boston  
 Alessandra Cipollone — Yonkers FSC  
 Alexa Cohen — Miami FSC  
 Taylor Crnkovich — Wisconsin FSC  
 Isabelle Desens — Rochester FSC  
 Emma DeShay — Pittsburgh FSC  
 Kenny Eckert — IceWorks SC  
 Willow Fedewa — FSC of Charlotte  
 Kate Finster — Northern Kentucky SC  
 Vayda Forgette — Cutting Edge FSC  
 Mai Friedman — SC of Northern Virginia  
 Laurel Gammon — Eastern Iowa FSC  
 Elise Geller — Washington FSC  
 David Goldshteyn — SC of New York  
 Cayetana Gonzalez — SC of New York  
 Caitlyn Grant — Wheaton FSC  
 Rachel Grinfeld — Queen City FSC  
 Madison Grumley — FSC of Southern California  
 Grace Guderski — Fond Du Lac FSC  
 Clarise Halton — Wheaton FSC  
 Lindsay Harpster — Detroit SC  
 Adeline Hayden — St. Cloud FSC  
 Sophia Heidtke — Starlight Ice Dance Club  
 Heather Heimbach — North Jersey FSC  
 Elizabeth Ho — Orange County FSC  
 Izzi Holmes — SC of New York  
 Jessica Hutchinson — Austin FSC  
 Cassidy Irwin — Los Angeles FSC  
 Abigail Isenberg — Rye FSC  
 Amy Isenberg — DuPage FSC  
 Michaela Jaeger — Wissahickon SC  
 Lauren Jeong — Finer Edge FSC  
 Christine Jiang — Los Angeles FSC  
 Chisato Kamakura — La Jolla FSC  
 Liam Kapeikis — Wenatchee FSC  
 Julia Knutson — Individual  
 Sophia Kracht — Skokie Valley SC  
 Dena Le — Glacier Falls FSC  
 Audrey Lee — Memorial FSC of Houston  
 Olivia Lee — Dallas FSC  
 Natalie Lennon — Carolinas FSC  
 Brooke Lood — Duluth FSC  
 Ava MacCormack — Center Ice of Oaks FSC  
 Stella Maples — All Year FSC  
 Julia Marshall — Northern Ice SC  
 Samantha Marshall — Individual  
 Addison Melsher — Skokie Valley SC  
 Adeline Meyer — Starlight Ice Dance Club  
 Emily Meyer — Orange County FSC  
 Gwyneth Moe — Duluth FSC  
 Anna Moran — Washington FSC  
 Eliza Morman — Lansing SC  
 Kella Mrozek — St. Cloud FSC  
 Balazs Nagy — SC of New York  
 Emilia Nemirowsky — Detroit SC  
 Mahala Nguyen — Ann Arbor FSC  
 Nhat-Viet Nguyen — Dallas FSC  
 Ava Obremski — Connecticut Skating Academy  
 Sophia Obrzut — Onyx-Suburban SA  
 Lauren Paris — Pines FSC  
 Cleo Park — Glacier Falls FSC  
 Skye Patton — St. Louis SC  
 August Perthus — Glacier Falls FSC

Samantha Peterson — SC of Novi  
 Addisyn Petrulli — The Bourne SC  
 Michelle Quan — Dallas FSC  
 Alison Quiambao — Rye FSC  
 Nina Reginiewicz — Windy City FSC  
 Madelyn Rehn — Ann Arbor FSC  
 Kayla Ross — Heritage FSC  
 Anna Ryan — SC of Hingham  
 Ashley Ryoo — All Year FSC  
 Jacob Sanchez — Hudson Valley FSC  
 Dominica Sarandeva — SC of Lake Placid  
 Paula Schmitt — FSC of Charleston  
 Grace Schultz — Onyx-Suburban SA  
 Estelle Schwab — St. Paul FSC  
 Jaden Schwab — St. Paul FSC  
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 Emma Simmers — Annapolis SC  
 Adina Solomon — Essex SC of NJ  
 Joshua Soto — Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights  
 Stefan Stalker — Summit FSC Of NC  
 Konoka Suzuki — Thoroughbred FSC  
 Ashley Toy — Dallas FSC  
 Hannah Tsao — Murray Silver Blades FSC  
 Ella Uhde — Northern Blades NSC FSC  
 Mia Vientos — Finer Edge FSC  
 Zoe Villanueva — Nashville FSC  
 Fiona Wade — Duluth FSC  
 Anabel Wallace — Los Angeles FSC  
 Lauren Widrick — North Shore SC  
 Angela Wu — Washington FSC  
 Julia Xu — Philadelphia SC & HS  
 Hannah Yin — North Jersey FSC  
 Nicholas Ying — Skating Club of Boston  
 Rachel Yurk — Pittsburgh FSC  
 Angela Zhang — Skokie Valley SC  
 Ge Yao Zhang — Hayden Recreation Centre FSC  
**Adult Gold Moves In The Field 21+**  
 Bridget Amory — University of Delaware FSC  
 Kathryn Boehme — Diamond Edge FSC  
 Heather Boren — Los Angeles FSC  
 Robin Boswell — FSC of Charlotte  
 Jennifer Gionfriddo — Chaska FSC  
 Diego Hernandez — SC of Nevada  
 Anna Johnson — Tidewater FSC  
 Marie McDaniel — FSC of Charlotte  
 Krystal Sharp — Indy Central FSC  
 Rebecca White — Bend Ice FSC  
 Priscilla Yau — All Year FSC  
**Adult Senior Moves In The Field 50+**  
 Shannon Chidlow — Glenwood FSC  
**Adult Gold Moves In The Field 50+**  
 Kyla Hastie — SC of Amherst  
**Senior Free Skate**  
 Hannah Abercrombie — SC of Mt. Lebanon  
 Emily Allen — Hershey FSC  
 Hannah Bullington — Tulsa FSC  
 Georgia Bush — Central Florida FSC  
 Lindsey Goessl — Cutting Edge FSC  
 Shirin Haan — Annapolis SC  
 Aunika Hoch — Cottonwood Heights FSC  
 Hannah Hortman — Triangle FSC  
 Elizabeth Horwitz — Gilmour Academy FSC  
 Emma Jamison — Glenwood FSC  
 Liam Kapeikis — Wenatchee FSC  
 Jessica Lin — Dallas FSC  
 Riley Marmon — Hudson Valley FSC  
 Jamie McSweeney — Gilmour Academy FSC  
 Lily Neff — Alpine SC  
 Zoe Parrilli — Northern Ice SC  
 Annabelle Rie — Colonial FSC  
 Samantha Rosen — CN Figure Skating Academy  
 Neil Sarkar — Penguin FSC  
 Reagan Scott — Red Rose FSC  
 Alexandria Silverman — All Year FSC  
 Brenna Stotlemeyer — Lansing SC  
 Savannah Stroyke — All Year FSC

Abbie Symanietz — St. Paul FSC  
 Channah Weiner — Pittsburgh FSC  
 Elise Westlund — Uncle Sam SC  
 Kimberly You — Arctic FSC  
**Adult Gold Free Skate**  
 Jennifer Betz — Columbine FSC  
 Elspeth Cunningham — Pittsburgh FSC  
 Anna Johnson — Tidewater FSC  
 Micah Scott — Spokane FSC  
**Adult Senior Free Skate**  
 Alejandra Gibson — San Antonio FSC  
**Adult Gold Pairs**  
 Susan Bai — New Edge FSC  
**Gold Dance**  
 Emily Allen — Hershey FSC  
 Macee Barber — Magic City FSC  
 Zoe Gilson — Thomas Creek FSC  
 Brianna Grant — St. Lawrence FSC  
 Sydney Horenstein — Philadelphia SC & HS  
 Monica Jackson — Diamond Edge FSC  
 Katherine Jaessing — Kettle Moraine FSC  
 Ruiying Lin — Hershey FSC  
 Claire Pitrof — Kettle Moraine FSC  
 Addisen Renton — Bismarck FSC  
 Reagan Scott — Red Rose FSC  
 Ella Sizemore — Louisville Skating Academy  
 Rebecca Vara — Kettle Moraine FSC  
 Victoria Williams — Atlanta FSC  
**Adult Gold Dance Test 21+**  
 Elysse Brenner — Oklahoma City FSC  
 Amy Lim — Essex SC of NJ  
**Solo Gold Dance**  
 Hannah Bacal — Plymouth FSC  
 Sara Maity — Los Angeles FSC  
 Ava Moreal — Strongsville SC  
 Salome Mouliere — Ann Arbor FSC  
 Chelsea Peng — SC of Morris NJ  
 Emily Wang — Thoroughbred FSC  
**Senior Free Dance**  
 Monica Jackson — Diamond Edge FSC  
 Jessica Sassano — Winterhurst FSC  
**Senior Solo Free Dance**  
 Jade AuBuchon — Oklahoma City FSC  
 Zowie Auger — Massena FSC  
 Elise Barber — Frederick FSC  
 Bo Bernstein — IceWorks SC  
 Daniel Block — Diamond Edge FSC  
 Sarah Conner — SC of Central New York  
 Fiona Conway — Winterhurst FSC  
 Isabella DeGroot — Kettle Moraine FSC  
 Jillian Duke — Cutting Edge FSC  
 Chloe Hampson — Southport SC  
 Talia Hamre — Crookston FSC  
 Kyra Hctor — Carolinas FSC  
 Natalia Irvine — Sun Valley FSC  
 Zofia Janusz — SC of Wilmington  
 Emma Le Duc — Swan City Ice Skaters  
 Michelle Li — Center Ice of Oaks FSC  
 McKenzie Liboy — Skokie Valley SC  
 Cassidy Milner — Strongsville SC  
 Avery Muldovan — SC of New York  
 Kya Murphy — Glenwood FSC  
 Taryn Nelson — Bismarck FSC  
 Mackenzie Neuendorf — Wisconsin FSC  
 Emily Noon — Swan City Ice Skaters  
 Lola Perelman — Wisconsin FSC  
 Katelyn Potasiewicz — Clinton FSC  
 Adah Roman — Greater Kalamazoo SA  
 Miah Schmidt — Fergus Falls SC  
 Riley Scott — Bismarck FSC  
 Rachael Stephany — Summit FSC of NC  
 Lauren Swenson — Braemar-City of Lakes FSC



# 2021-22 ISU SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Aug. 18-21, 2021 — ISU JGP (Courchevel, France)  
Aug. 25-28, 2021 — ISU JGP (Edmonton, Canada)  
Sept. 1-4, 2021 — ISU JGP (Košice, Slovakia)  
Sept. 10-12, 2021 — ISU Challenger Series (Bergamo, Italy)  
Sept. 15-18, 2021 — ISU JGP (Krasnoyarsk, Russia)  
Sept. 16-18, 2021 — ISU Challenger Series (Montreal)  
Sept. 22-25, 2021 — ISU Challenger Series (Orberstdorf, Germany)  
Sept. 22-25, 2021 — ISU JGP (Ljubljana, Slovenia)  
Sept. 22-25, 2021 — Nebelhorn Trophy (Orberstdorf, Germany)  
Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2021 — ISU JGP (Gdansk, Poland)  
Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2021 — ISU Challenger Series (Bratislava, Slovakia)  
Oct. 6-9, 2021 — ISU JGP (Linz, Austria)  
Oct. 7-10, 2021 — ISU Challenger Series (Espoo, Finland)  
Oct. 13-17, 2021 — Asian Open Figure Skating Trophy (Beijing)  
Oct. 13-17, 2021 — ISU Challenger Series (Beijing)  
Oct. 22-24, 2021 — ISU GP Skate America (Las Vegas)

Oct. 28-31, 2021 — ISU Challenger Series (Almaty, Kazakhstan)  
Oct. 29-31, 2021 — ISU GP Skate Canada International (Vancouver)  
Nov. 5-7, 2021 — ISU GP Cup of China (Chongqing, China)  
Nov. 11-14, 2021 — ISU Challenger Series (Graz, Austria)  
Nov. 12-14, 2021 — ISU GP NHK Trophy (TBD, Japan)  
Nov. 17-20, 2021 — ISU Challenger Series (Warsaw, Poland)  
Nov. 19-21, 2021 — ISU GP Internationaux de France (Grenoble)  
Nov. 26-28, 2021 — ISU GP Rostelecom Cup (Moscow)  
Dec. 8-11, 2021 — ISU Challenger Series (Zagreb, Croatia)  
Dec. 9-12, 2021 — ISU GP Final (Osaka, Japan)  
Jan. 10-16, 2022 — ISU European Championships (Tallinn, Estonia)  
Jan. 17-22, 2022 — ISU Four Continents Championships (Tianjin, China)  
Feb. 4-20, 2022 — Olympic Winter Games (Beijing)  
March 7-13, 2022 — ISU World Junior Championships (Sofia, Bulgaria)  
March 21-27, 2022 — ISU World Championships (Montpellier, France)

## ADVERTISER SPOTLIGHT: CARUCARU SPIRITWEAR

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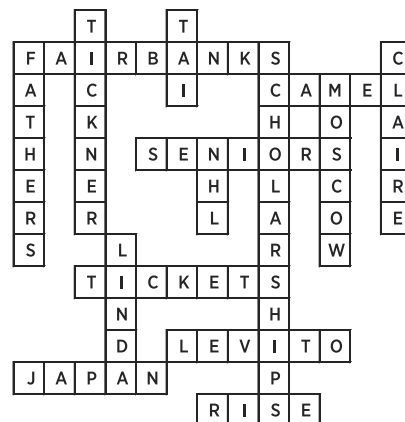


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but the destination is  
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The Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 have been moved to next year. But our dreams aren't canceled, only delayed. To Team Toyota and athletes everywhere, please continue to stay safe, as we continue to stand behind you.

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