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ON THE COVER

Hans Rosemond Photography

Two-time and reigning U.S. champion Bradie Tennell stepped out of her comfort zone last year and moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to reinvigorate her career. Tennell has enjoyed the beauty of Colorado and excelled in her new training environment under coach Tom Zakrajsek. Tennell now has her sights set on this season and the opportunity to qualify for her second Olympic Winter Games. Her cover story starts on page 24.



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

'THE NEXT CENTURY OF FIGURE SKATING STARTS WITH YOU'



The possibilities are endless when it comes to the upcoming National Skating Month campaign, which will double in length this year, running January through February in celebration of the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing.

The theme is "The Next Century of Figure Skating Starts with YOU," and rink managers, program directors and club leaders have a long list of fun and exciting plans lined up to celebrate the 21st annual event.

"We have a skating community that is excited about introducing our fun, lifetime sport to individuals and families alike," Susi Wehrli McLaughlin, senior director of membership at U.S. Figure Skating, said. "Offering free lessons, skating demonstrations, mini ice shows and games on the ice are just a few of the popular ways to welcome people to skating during National Skating Month."

To help facilitate this two-month-long celebration, U.S. Figure Skating is once again offering kits to clubs, programs and rinks for \$40 each. Contents include logo giveaways such as lip balm, hand sanitizer, frisbees, flashlights, zipper pulls, pens, pencils, stickers, brochures, gloves and more — everything they need to create goody bags for participants to take home after their fun time at the rink.

Each kit will also come with a suite of Olympic-inspired posters highlighting the skating journey and showcasing that champions come in every shape and size.

In addition, participants at National Skating Month events will be able to download digital assets that offer fun challenges that can be accessed from home.

Anyone who registers and purchases a kit will be included in all additional promotions in February during the Olympic Winter Games.

"National Skating Month is always a big hit, but especially during the Olympic year when we expand it to two months," Wehrli McLaughlin said. "Without exception, we see a spike in interest and participation in skating during an Olympic campaign. I encourage all our member clubs, rinks and programs to take advantage of this opportunity to build your member base while creating excitement locally."

Heidi Parker, who started a new job in June as the assistant director of skating at the Huntsville Ice Sports Center in Huntsville, Alabama, knows just how fun National Skating Month can be for people of all ages.

Parker was previously the skating director at the nearby Point Mallard Ice Complex in Decatur, Alabama, for 16 years.

"We offered a free skate on Martin Luther King Jr. Day," Parker said. "For a couple of years, we rented the Snowplow Sam costume, which was a huge success just having a mascot out there. We had kids from age 4 to adults together on the ice. Just to see the pure joy on all of their faces was tremendous. And we always had the free giveaways from the U.S. Figure Skating kits. It was a good community event."

The Huntsville Ice Sports Center, she said, has also conducted many National Skating Month events over the last two decades. In addition to providing standard on-ice experiences, it also has given the public a sampling of synchronized skating and Theatre On Ice.

Plans for this year's National Skating Month activities in Huntsville will be formulated soon, Parker said.

Moe Herr, who is the skating director for the Spokane Figure Skating Club, will once again lead efforts for a National Skating Month celebration at the club's home rink — Frontier Arena — in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

"National Skating Month is one of my favorite events," Herr said. "Not only does it allow me to be creative in terms of recruitment, but it is always fun when we can bring our established skaters in on the fun of introducing this amazing sport to new skaters."

The club traditionally secures the rink during a Saturday morning public session, where it provides free lessons, has many giveaways, throws a party, sets up games in the lobby and shows a promotional skating video that can also be viewed on its social media channels.

For this Olympic year celebration, Herr plans to bring back the "Earn Your Rings" challenge. Those in Learn to Skate USA® classes are presented with five challenges. If successful, they earn a bracelet that matches one of the Olympic ring colors. If they earn all five rings, they receive a special prize.

For suggestions about National Skating Month activities and how to purchase a kit, please go to www.NationalSkatingMonth.com.

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

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ICE BREAKERS

BELL WALKS 'TO END ALZHEIMER'S'

Editor's note: November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Family Caregivers Month.

Team USA's Mariah Bell participated in the 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Irvine, California, on Oct. 2.

Bell, a four-time U.S. medalist, is inspired to help find a cure for this neurological disease. Before the walk, Bell took the stage and talked about her personal story.

"I'm here today in honor of both my great-grandmother and grandmother who both passed away from Alzheimer's," Bell said. "I've seen firsthand how devastating this disease is and can be. I saw it with my parents as they cared for my grandmother.

"The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is such an awesome thing to be a part of, not only to raise awareness and funds to find a cure, but to be a part of a community of people who understand what you're going [or went] through."

After the ceremony, Bell and her dog Nala were brought to the front of the starting line to begin the walk.

All funds raised through Walk to End Alzheimer's further the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. The event is one of 600 in communities nationwide.



COURTESY OF ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION/BREANNE KRAUSE

TICKETS ON SALE FOR 2022 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Single- and all-session tickets for the 2022 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships are on sale. The marquee event, which will help decide who makes the 2022 U.S. Olympic Team, is scheduled for Jan. 3-9 at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

For more information on all ticket packages, along with other details about the event, go to 2022USChampionships.com.

TOYOTA



2022 FOUR CONTINENTS TO TAKE PLACE IN ESTONIA

The International Skating Union announced in early October that the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2022 will take place Jan. 18-23, 2022, in Tallinn, Estonia, immediately following the ISU European Figure Skating Championships.

The announcement came after the Chinese Figure Skating Association canceled the event that was set to take place Jan. 17-22, 2022, in Tianjin, China. The association made the decision based on logistical challenges surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

The ISU opened applications to host the event, but none were received before the ISU Council meeting on Oct. 1.

Held since 1999 and open to competitors from Asia, Africa, the Americas and Oceania, this is the first time the Four Continents Championships will be held in Europe.

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Alicia Kaminski and family at an Avalanche game

HEADQUARTERS PROFILE

ALICIA KAMINSKI

I celebrated my one-year anniversary as U.S. Figure Skating's accounts payable specialist at the end of October. My job is to pay the bills and maintain the vendor files for U.S. Figure Skating. I work closely with my finance team to make sure that our vendors, athletes and employees are paid in a timely manner and resolve any issues that may arise quickly and efficiently.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My finance team! They are the best and have made me feel like a part of the family. I've enjoyed learning about the figure skating world beyond just watching it during the Olympics. When I first saw the position open for AP specialist at U.S. Figure Skating, I thought, "I want this job!" Why? Because this job would enable me to combine my work life and my love of sports and give me a real sense of purpose behind what I would be doing. I love that I can contribute, in my own way, to the success of these talented and amazing young people.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I am a huge sports fan and watch a lot of sports with my family all week long. Since moving to Colorado in 2005, we have embraced the Colorado Avalanche as our own and watch or listen to every game. When I am not watching something sports related, I am reading, writing, cooking, listening to music or spending time with my husband, kids and/or grandkids outside, doing something fun and active.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

Everything. Since starting this position during COVID, most of my interaction with my coworkers has been through email or virtual. I haven't had a chance to get to know many people on a personal level yet. So, when you do come back to the office, feel free to stop by and say hello.

What would be your ideal vacation?

I'd be on a beautiful beach, playing in the water or building sand castles with my grandkids during the day. At night, I'd be sitting around the firepit, listening to Ottmar Liebert, enjoying good food and drink and having a great conversation with my family.

Tell us about your family.

I was born and raised in San Diego, where I met and married the love of my life of 33 years. We have two amazing children and the two best grandchildren ever. My extended family is scattered all over California, Arizona, North Carolina and Florida.



PHOTOS BY MELANIE HEANEY



Vincent Zhou and Alysa Liu earn gold at Nebelhorn Trophy.

LIU, ZHOU SEW UP THIRD OLYMPIC SPOTS FOR U.S.

Alysa Liu and Vincent Zhou earned gold medals at the 2021 Nebelhorn Trophy in late September, securing a third women's and a third men's entry for the United States at the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

The competition in Oberstdorf, Germany, Sept. 21-25, served as the final qualifying competition for the Olympic Winter Games.

Based on the results of the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2021, the United States earned two Olympic entries in both the women's and men's compet-

ition and had the opportunity to confirm a third entry at Nebelhorn Trophy.

Zhou won the Nebelhorn Trophy crown by more than 40 points, while Liu dominated the women's field by 14 points.



Top coaches reunite in Cornhusker country.

COACHING GREATS ENJOY REUNION IN LINCOLN

Some of the sport's legendary coaches and top instructors of today gathered for a reunion of sorts on Labor Day at the upscale Kindler Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Nick Castaneda, a former national medalist, international competitor and owner of the Kindler Hotel, and 1988 Olympic champion Brian Boitano, welcomed the renowned coaches for a single-day celebration gathering.

The event, held in Boitano's Lounge inside the hotel, was attended by John Nicks, Frank Carroll, Barbara Roles Williams, Carol Heiss, Tammy Gambill, Laura Lipetsky, Evelyn Kramer, Jeanette Nelson, Audrey Weisiger, Linda Leaver, Charyl Bernstein Bruschi, Todd Sand and Gale Tanger.

"These are coaches who we all admire and who have done great things in the sport," Castaneda said. "I think everyone had a good time getting together and reminiscing. I think it's so important to honor our history and recognize those who have made such a difference."

The guests of honor were treated to a performance by Franc D'Ambrosio, who is well-known for his Broadway performances in *The Phantom of the Opera*, as well as his role in *The Godfather Part III*. Castaneda converted the stage inside Boitano's Lounge into a Broadway stage for D'Ambrosio's performance.

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.

OLYMPIC SCANDAL PROMPTS JUDGING REFORM

Hughes pulls off upset, Lysacek-Weir rivalry unfolds, U.S. synchro excels on world stage

BY LAURA FAWCETT

For many people in attendance for the pairs free skate at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, something seemed fishy the moment the scores came up for Canada's Jamie Salé and David Pelletier.

The duo had entranced the crowd with a flawless performance to music from *Love Story*, and with Russian rivals Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze making an error in their free skate, it appeared all but guaranteed that the Canadians would win gold. Even on the live NBC broadcast, Scott Hamilton said near the end of their program, "Throw triple loop and the gold is theirs."

And then the scores came up. The Russians had edged the Canadians for gold in a 5-4 split. Boos and sounds of surprise echoed through the arena.

Later that evening, reports filtered in that French judge Marie-Reine Le Gougne broke down and allegedly told ISU Figure Skating Technical Committee Chair Sally Anne Stapleford that she had received pressure to favor the Russian pair. She reportedly repeated this at the post-event judges' meeting, and event referee Ron Pfennig filed an official complaint. The pressure was allegedly part of a deal to ensure an advantage for French ice dancers Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat, who later won gold.

In the days that followed, the repercussions from the scandal changed the face of competitive figure skating. The ISU and IOC agreed to award the Canadians a second gold medal, and the scandal pushed figure skating into the Olympic spotlight in a way no one expected.

ISU President Ottavio Cinquanta followed up by releasing a proposal to reform the judging system to weed out the possibilities of misconduct. The proposal would dissolve the 6.0 system and work off a cumulative points system that considered element difficulty as well as execution.

At the 2002 ISU Congress, the U.S.



PAUL HARVATH/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

2002 U.S. Olympic Team, back row (l-r) Charles Sinek, Peter Tchernyshev, Michael Weiss, Todd Eldredge, Timothy Goebel, John Zimmerman, Philip Dulebohn; front row (l-r) Beata Handra, Naomi Lang, Sarah Hughes, Michelle Kwan, Sasha Cohen, Kyoko Ina, Tiffany Scott

Figure Skating Association proposed its own revision to the judging system. The proposal would have kept the 6.0 system but featured the median mark.

"We did not anticipate the intensity of the president's determination to change the judging system entirely, which the congress approved enthusiastically before the U.S. or any other proposals were discussed," USFSA Executive Director John LeFevre said at the time.

With that, there was no putting the train back in the station. The new international judging system was well on its way to becoming a permanent fixture. The new system debuted internationally in the 2003-04 season, and the congress formally adopted it in the summer of 2004. The USFSA then embarked on a sophisticated education and implementation plan for the system's usage domestically. The 6.0 system was used for the



PHOTO BY TIM DE WAELE/GETTY IMAGES

Gold medalist Sarah Hughes, center; silver medalist Irina Slutskaya of Russia, left; and bronze medalist Michelle Kwan visit after the 2002 Olympic medal ceremony.



PAUL HARVATH/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

2006 U.S. Olympic Team, back row (l-r) Ryan O'Meara, Denis Petukhov, Ben Agosto, Johnny Weir, Evan Lysacek, John Baldwin, Aaron Parchem, Matt Savoie; front row (l-r) Jamie Silverstein, Melissa Gregory, Tanith Belbin, Sasha Cohen, Kimmie Meissner, Rena Inoue, Marcy Hinzmann

final time at a U.S. Championships in 2005.

While the decade saw a period of intense change in skating, some things remained consistent. One of those was the dominance of Michelle Kwan through the first half of the decade, as she cemented herself as the most popular skater in U.S. history. She won six U.S. titles from 2000 to 2005 and collected five World medals (three gold) in the same time period.

As the reigning World champion, Kwan was the favorite headed into the 2002 Olympics. She led after the short program, with teammates Sasha Cohen and Sarah Hughes third and fourth, respectively. Skating early in the final group, Hughes performed a spectacular program with seven triples and two triple-triple combinations. With mistakes by both Kwan and Russian Irina Slutskaya, Hughes leapfrogged her competitors to win the gold at just 16. Kwan was third. Although she didn't win Olympic gold, she went on to win her fifth World title in 2003.

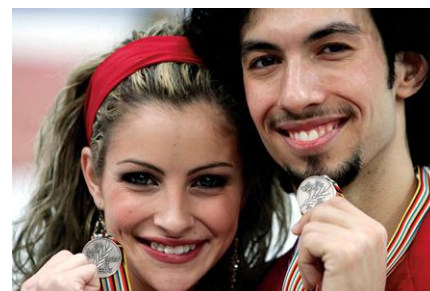
Kwan's last competitive event turned out to be the 2005 World Championships, where she finished fourth. Suffering from an injury that kept her out of the 2006 U.S. Championships, Kwan successfully petitioned for a spot on the 2006 Olympic Team. Upon

arrival in Torino, she withdrew from the event after a new injury and was replaced by Emily Hughes, younger sister of Sarah. Cohen became the U.S. star of the event after that, finishing with a silver medal.

Another big development in the 2000s was the competitive emergence of U.S. ice dance teams. Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, who finished 17th at their first World Championships in 2001, began steadily climbing up the ranks. Just four years later (2005), they collected their first World medal, a silver, marking the first World medal by a U.S. ice dance team since 1985. The duo went on to win three more World medals and a silver at the 2006 Olympic Games.

In the latter part of the decade, they were challenged by teammates Meryl Davis and Charlie White, who won their first U.S. title in 2009. Since Belbin and Agosto's silver in 2005, the U.S. has finished without a World dance medal just two times.

In men's skating, as the quad revolution continued, the debate between athleticism and artistry raged on. Timothy Goebel was the original "Quad King," and he won an Olympic bronze medal and two World silvers in the early 2000s based on his technical prowess. None of the other top U.S. men



Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto break through with a silver medal at the 2005 World Championships; it was the first American medal in that discipline since 1985.

JAMIE McDONALD/GETTY IMAGES

could consistently land quads; they relied on clean programs and presentation to stay in the medal hunt.

Evan Lysacek and Johnny Weir dominated U.S. skating for most of the 2000s. Weir won five U.S. medals between 2000 and 2009, including three straight U.S. titles. Lysacek won two titles and collected five U.S. medals. Their rivalry hit its climax at the 2008 U.S. Championships in St. Paul, Minnesota, where they finished with the exact same score — 244.77 points. Lysacek won the free skate, though, which served as the tiebreaker.



Rivals Johnny Weir and Evan Lysacek share the podium at the 2008 U.S. Championships, with Lysacek winning the title on a tie-breaker.

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2000s

The first decade in the new millennium was dominated by concerns with international terrorism and war, the availability of fossil fuels and alternative energy sources, global warming and social issues. Emo, indie and Gangsta styles were popular fashions and included baggy trousers worn low with boxers showing. J.K. Rowling's popular *Harry Potter* series set and broke its own records as the fastest-selling books in history.

Around the nation: Republican candidate George W. Bush defeated Democratic rival Al Gore in the closest election in the nation's history; which candidate won the election was unknown for more than a month pending a recount of votes in Florida, an event that popularized the term *hanging chad*.

In sports: The Boston Red Sox defeated the St. Louis Cardinals to win the 2004 World Series, finally breaking the 86-year "Curse of the Bambino" said to have begun when the Red Sox sold Babe "The Bambi-

no" Ruth to the New York Yankees, a deal announced in January 1920.

At the movies: The 2000 history-drama *Gladiator* took five Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Leading Actor, and was nominated for seven more. The film, directed by Ridley Scott of *Alien* (1979) and *Blade Runner* (1982) fame, starred Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix and Connie Nielsen.

The cost of living: In 2000, a single-family Colonial home with 12 rooms, cost \$599,000, and 51 percent of Americans owned one or more computers. The average annual salary was \$37,000, and minimum wage was \$5.15 an hour. A new Nissan Pathfinder 4x4 was \$27,999, and a gallon of gas cost \$1.49. Boys wore T-shirts at \$12.99 each; a girl's holiday dress cost between \$18 and \$44.

Cost of skates: In 2000, strap-on double-edge "runners" for kids started at \$25, molded plastic skates at \$35. Vinyl or leather boots — with vinyl soles and nickel blades already attached — cost between

Lysacek showed the most consistency internationally, winning two World bronze medals before breaking through in 2009 with the World title despite not having a quad. That was a precursor to his Olympic gold a year later.

On the pairs front, the team of Kyoko Ina and John Zimmerman secured the World bronze medal in 2002. The Hall of Fame team won three consecutive U.S. titles in the decade, and competed at the 2002 Olympics.

Synchronized skating continued to grow, and the debut of the World Synchronized Skating Championships and the World Junior Challenge Cup added prestige to the discipline. The U.S. broke through with its first World medal with Miami University securing silver in 2007.

Outside the rink, USFSA changed with the times as well. In 2003, the organization rebranded itself as U.S. Figure Skating to increase awareness. Along with the name change was a new logo to replace the traditional shield that had been in use since 1964.

The increasing importance of an online presence led to a major revision of the U.S. Figure Skating website, with the new design launching right before the 2004 U.S. Championships. A year later, U.S. Figure Skating began webcasting select qualifying competitions to allow more fans across the country to

\$35 and \$60 for kids and \$50 to \$75 for adults. At the high end, leather boots with double-layer leather soles sold separately from the blades ranged from \$160 to \$400 for the boots (excluding custom-made boots) and \$35 to \$500 for a pair of blades. Riedell's Beginner/Recreation model cost \$108, the Professional model was \$432, and a custom-built pair of skates was \$635.

In 2008, a pair of women's CCM "Champion" figure skates cost \$49.99 from Sears; boys' figure skates from the American Athletic Shoe Company cost \$27.99 at Kmart. At the top end, a pair of Elite Royal 900 skates from Riedell Shoe Company cost \$552 (white) or \$567 (black); JW Gold Seal blades cost \$640 (standard), \$688 (k-pick) or \$698 (parabolic).

Pop culture notables: In the summer of 2009, the "King of Pop" Michael Jackson and actress Farrah Fawcett passed away on the same day, June 25, four hours apart.

watch top skating.

More changes shook up the skating media world in 2006–07. First, U.S. Figure Skating partnered with MLB Advanced Media to create icenetwork, a website and video subscription service that eventually streamed most major domestic and ISU events. In 2007, U.S. Figure Skating ended its 43-year partnership with ABC Sports/ESPN and signed a new broadcasting contract with NBC.

As the decade came to a close, there was worry that the golden age of skating had passed. With the glut of TV options, figure skating certainly didn't command the ratings it once had. But fans continued to pack arenas to watch skating live. The 2007 U.S. Championships in Spokane, Washington, and 2008 Skate America in Everett, Washington, both broke attendance records.

On the eve of another Olympic year and with the international judging system fully implemented, the U.S. was on the verge of another amazing decade.

Laura Fawcett was U.S. Figure Skating's director of publications and editor of SKATING from 1999 to 2003 and the director of online services from 2003 to 2007. As a figure skating press officer, she attended the 2002 and 2006 Olympics and the World Championships in 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007.

U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS IN 2000-09

- 2002 | Sarah Hughes, gold; Michelle Kwan, bronze; Timothy Goebel, bronze
- 2006 | Sasha Cohen, silver; Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto, silver

U.S. WORLD MEDALISTS IN 2000-09

- 2000 | Michelle Kwan, gold; Michael Weiss, bronze
- 2001 | Michelle Kwan, gold; Sarah Hughes, bronze; Todd Eldredge, bronze
- 2002 | Michelle Kwan, silver; Tim Goebel, silver; Kyoko Ina/John Zimmerman, bronze
- 2003 | Michelle Kwan, gold; Tim Goebel, silver
- 2004 | Sasha Cohen, silver; Michelle Kwan, bronze
- 2005 | Sasha Cohen, silver; Evan Lysacek, bronze; Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto, silver
- 2006 | Kimmie Meissner, gold; Sasha Cohen, bronze; Evan Lysacek, bronze; Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto, bronze
- 2007 | Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto, bronze
- 2008 | Johnny Weir, bronze
- 2009 | Evan Lysacek, gold; Tanith Belbin/Ben Agosto, silver



Miami University captured the first World medal for the United States at the 2007 World Synchronized Skating Championships in London, Ontario, Canada.



USFSA rebranded itself in 2003 to U.S. Figure Skating and introduced a new logo that replaced the traditional shield that had been in use since 1964.



icenetwork

U.S. Figure Skating entered into a new TV contract era with NBC, while it also created a major online presence for fans with icenetwork.

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*.

HUGHES, MEISSNER RISE TO THE OCCASION; LYSACEK TAKES WORLDS, THEN OLYMPICS

SARAH HUGHES

Sarah Hughes became the U.S. junior champion at age 12, in 1998, and then competed for five years as a senior, collecting two bronze and two silver medals. Sent to the World Championships for the first time at age 13, she placed seventh. Her best placement in three tries resulted in a bronze medal in 2001. At the Olympic Winter Games in 2002, Hughes managed a dramatic upset by defeating more-experienced skaters including Irina Slutskaya of Russia and Michelle Kwan. Although Hughes won two Grand Prix events, she never won a U.S. or a World title. She competed through 2003 before retiring to attend college. After her freshman year, she spent a year touring with Stars on Ice before returning to Yale University to complete her undergraduate degree. She later earned a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

EVAN LYSACEK

In 2010, Evan Lysacek became the sixth American man to win an Olympic gold medal, the others being Dick Button, Hayes Jenkins, David Jenkins, Scott Hamilton, and Brian Boitano. He had placed fourth at the Games in 2006, just two years into his senior career. Lysacek was the U.S. champion twice, in 2007 and 2008. Internationally he proceeded to win all the major senior events: the Grand Prix Final in 2009, Four Continents twice, in 2005 and 2007, Worlds in 2009, and the Olympics in 2010. Lysacek's medal count numbered six U.S. and 20



PHOTO BY JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Sarah Hughes relishes the moment following her electric free skate at the 2002 Olympics.

international during his six-year senior career. On just three occasions he did not appear on the medal stand. He elected to not defend his World title after winning his Olympic title.

KIMBERLY "KIMMIE" MEISSNER

Kimmie Meissner became the U.S. novice ladies champion in 2003 and the junior ladies champion in 2004. As a senior she progressed through the medals: bronze in 2005, silver in 2006 and gold in 2007. Internationally she placed sixth at the Olympic Winter Games in 2006, and a month later was the surprise winner at the World Championships. She also won a gold medal at the Four Continents Championships in 2007. For her final year of competitive skating, 2008, she slipped to seventh at both the U.S. and the World Championships. She was recognized for excellent jumping technique, but injuries contributed to an early departure

from the sport. She attended and graduated from Towson University in her home state of Maryland.



PHOTO BY HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

Kimmie Meissner earns gold at 2006 Worlds.



PHOTO BY SCOTT HALLERAN/GETTY IMAGES

A year after winning the World title in 2009, Evan Lysacek wears the Olympic gold medal.

2000s TIMELINE

COMPILED BY LAURA FAWCETT

- **2000:** A record-breaking 118,000 fans attended the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Cleveland in February (the mark was broken in 2001 and 2002). Michelle Kwan won her fourth title, becoming the first woman to win three consecutive titles since Rosalyn Sumners in 1982–84. Timothy Goebel became the first man to land a quad jump at the U.S. Championships, with a quad Salchow-triple toe in the free skate. He landed three in the program but finished second to champion Michael Weiss. Kyoko Ina and John Zimmerman won their first pairs title, and ice dancers Naomi Lang and Peter Tchernyshev earned their first 6.0 en route to gold.
- **2000:** Precision skating's name change to *synchronized skating* was completed, as the 2000 version of the national event was called the U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships for the first time.
- **2000:** The Haydenettes and Team Elan qualified for the first World Synchronized Skating Championships, held in Minneapolis. The U.S. teams finished fifth and eighth.
- **2000:** The first National Collegiate Conference Skating Championships were held in April at Miami University.
- **2000:** Phyllis Howard was named U.S. Figure Skating president, only the second woman to hold the position at the time.
- **2000:** Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in New York opened with a wax figure of Michelle Kwan, the only skater in the museum.
- **2001:** The synchronized skating team Superettes captured bronze for the U.S. at the inaugural World Junior Challenge Cup.
- **2001:** U.S. Figure Skating launched a new-look website in September.
- **2001:** After the tragedy of 9/11, USFSA officials withdrew all entries from the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating.
- **2001:** Michelle Kwan became only the second figure skater to win the AAU James E. Sullivan Memorial Award, which recognizes the top amateur athlete in the nation. A year later, Sarah Hughes won the award.
- **2002:** USFSA launched National Skating Week in March with the hope of increasing exposure of the sport and getting people on the ice. Sarah Hughes was the first NSW spokesperson.
- **2002:** Todd Eldredge captured his sixth U.S. title in Los Angeles. At age 30, he was the oldest men's winner since Roger Turner won in 1934 at age 32. The ladies free skate, which appeared on the ABC Family channel, set a record for the most-viewed skating event on cable TV.
- **2002:** Olympic champion Sarah Hughes was honored on the front of the fabled orange Wheaties box.
- **2002:** Kyoko Ina and John Zimmerman won the first World pairs medal for a U.S. team (bronze) since 1998.
- **2002:** The USFSA Program Development Committee launched the Future Champions Series, designed to offer skaters a goal to work toward during the off-season.
- **2002:** The U.S. Figure Skating Basic Skills Program broke the 100,000-member mark for the first time.
- **2002:** USFSA launched its fan club membership, Friends of Figure Skating.
- **2003:** The 2003 World Figure Skating Championships in Washington, D.C., attracted 106,851 fans, making it the most attended in U.S. history. A sold-out crowd watched Michelle Kwan win her fifth World title.
- **2003:** SKATING magazine renamed the Readers' Choice Award trophy the Michelle Kwan Trophy after she won her seventh award.
- **2003:** The international judging system debuted at the Nebelhorn Trophy and was implemented during the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating. American Jennifer Don was the first ladies winner under the new system.
- **2003:** Under the international judging system, U.S. skaters won three gold medals at Skate America for the first time since 1997.
- **2004:** The new U.S. Figure Skating website and shop were unveiled shortly before the U.S. Championships in Atlanta.
- **2004:** At the U.S. Championships in Atlanta, Michelle Kwan won her eighth title, with seven 6.0s. Johnny Weir won his first title, and at 19, he was the youngest men's champion in more than a decade. Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto won their first U.S. dance title, and Rena Inoue and John Baldwin won their first pairs title. At the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships, the Haydenettes won their 14th title.
- **2004:** Signaling their rise in ice dance, Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto finished fifth at the World Championships, the highest finish by a U.S. ice dancing team since 1990. Michelle Kwan received six 6.0s in her free skate, the last 6.0 marks ever given at a World event.
- **2004:** The ISU Congress formally adopted the international judging system, which had been proposed in 2002 and used at select international events in 2003.
- **2005:** U.S. Figure Skating conducted a successful test of the international judging system at the U.S. Championships in Portland, Oregon, although the 6.0 system was officially used for the competition for the final time.
- **2005:** At the U.S. Championships, Michelle Kwan won her ninth title, tying the record held by Maribel Vinson Owen. Bronze medalist Kimmie Meissner landed the first triple Axel by a U.S. woman in competition since Tonya Harding in 1991.
- **2005:** Figure skating took center stage in the Walt Disney movie *Ice Princess* starring Michelle Trachtenberg, Joan Cusack and Kim Cattrall. Michelle Kwan and Brian Boitano had cameos.
- **2005:** The U.S. won three medals at the first World Championships contested under the international judging system. Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto won the silver, the first World medal by a U.S. dance team since 1985. Belbin and Agosto, and Melissa Gregory and Denis Petukhov secured three spots for U.S. ice dancers at the Olympic Winter Games, the first time since 1984.
- **2005:** Haydenettes coach Lynn Benson retired after 26 seasons and 15 U.S. titles.
- **2005:** Twelve countries, including the U.S., competed in the first ISU Adult Figure Skating Competition, held in Oberstdorf, Germany.
- **2005:** David Raith was hired as U.S. Figure Skating's executive director, a role he held through the spring of 2021.
- **2005:** U.S. Figure Skating webcasted events from the 2005–06 qualifying season for the first time.
- **2006:** The international judging system was used for the first time at the U.S. Championships. During the event, the pairs team of Rena Inoue and John Baldwin landed the first-ever throw triple Axel. They later became the first to also land it in international competition when they succeeded at the Olympics.
- **2006:** In her first appearance at the World Championships, Kimmie Meissner landed seven triples en route to becoming the first U.S. World champion since Michelle Kwan in 2003.
- **2006:** Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, ended the Haydenettes' six-year hold on the U.S. title by winning gold at the U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships.
- **2006:** U.S. Figure Skating and MLB Advanced Media joined forces to create Ice Network, LLC, a news site and subscription service that had exclusive rights to U.S. Figure Skating's interactive media properties, including webcasting of major events. The website was a major source of all things figure skating until 2018.
- **2007:** A record 154,893 fans attended the U.S. Championships in Spokane, Washington. Caroline Zhang and Mirai Nagasu battled for supremacy in the junior ranks and provided a glimpse into the future of U.S. Figure Skating.
- **2007:** After 43 years with ABC Sports/ESPN, U.S. Figure Skating inked a multiyear revenue-sharing agreement with NBC Sports to broadcast Skate America and the U.S. Championships.
- **2007:** U.S. Figure Skating debuted Champs Camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The invitation-only camp for A- and B-envelope athletes and their coaches provided team building and information on topics such as media training, travel policies, doping regulations, performance support and performance testing.
- **2008:** Icenetwork unveiled plans to broadcast the entire ISU Grand Prix Series, the JGP Final, Europeans, Four Continents and the inaugural ISU World Team Trophy.
- **2008:** Skate America host Everett, Washington, broke the event attendance record with 29,477 tickets sold.
- **2008:** Jeremy Abbott became the first U.S. man to win a title at the Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final.
- **2009:** Olympic champion Brian Boitano starred in a Food Network show called "What Would Brian Boitano Make?"
- **2009:** Adam Rippon won the men's title at the World Junior Championships, becoming the first singles skater to win back-to-back titles in the event.
- **2009:** The U.S. won gold at the inaugural ISU World Team Trophy in Tokyo.
- **2009:** U.S. Figure Skating extended its agreement with NBC Sports through the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to space limitations, this story has been edited for length. Read the entire story at usfigureskating.org in mid-November.

FROM THE EARLY 2000s

Hersh recalls Cohen's beautiful skating, Kwan's painful exit, Lysacek's rise

BY PHILIP HERSH

The first 10 years of the 21st century were my second full decade of writing about figure skating. For me, that included on-the-scene coverage of, among other things, both Olympics, all 10 U.S. Championships and seven World Championships.

It was the decade in which a brouhaha about the pairs result at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics brought a massive change to the judging and scoring system.

The change, dumping a seemingly timeless system based on 6.0 as perfection, was intended to quantify the sport to a degree that it would bring fairer results. The unintended consequence was to overwhelm audiences with so many numbers that the results became nearly incomprehensible to even regular followers of the sport.

It was also a decade in which I got my first live looks at three of the most gifted women skaters I have covered, all three leaving indelible initial impressions of the careers that would reveal the utter brilliance of Yu-Na Kim, the ethereal lightness of Mao Asada and the eye-catching movements of Sasha Cohen.

Here are a few of my most striking memories of the early 2000s:

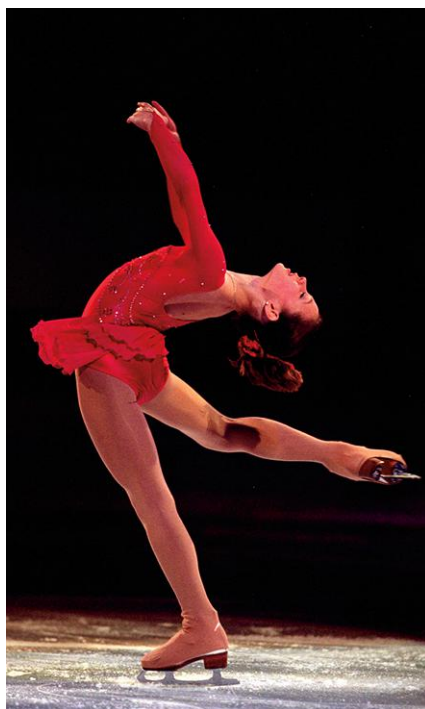
THE BEAUTIFUL SKATING OF SASHA COHEN

In my years covering figure skating, no senior nationals debut produced a more compelling performance than Sasha Cohen's at Cleveland in 2000.

Her short program, to the lush, lyrical flow of the Albinoni "Adagio" and the pulsating notes of "Winter" from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, included eye-catching body positions of exquisite refinement and creativity. She displayed a depth of musical understanding rare for skaters, even knowing that both pieces are in a minor key.

Cohen, then 15, beat Michelle Kwan and Sarah Hughes in that short program before finishing second to Kwan after the free skate. In those 2 minutes, 45 seconds, all the qualities that made Cohen such an extraordinarily beautiful skater were on full display.

"We never let disciplined choreography get in the way of her natural movements, which often are better than set choreography," her coach, John Nicks, said. "She is



Sasha Cohen displays her elegant skating and flexibility at the 2000 U.S. Championships in Cleveland.

unable to get into an ugly position."

But for the rest of her career, Cohen would be frustrated by her inability to do back-to-back technically strong programs. Never was that frustration more evident than at the 2006 Olympics, when she took a small lead into the free skate but botched her first two jumping passes. A month later, a badly flawed free skate cost her the World title.

LYSACEK UNDER THE RADAR

Lysacek came to the 2005 World Championships hoping only to make the 24-skater cut for the free skate. He wound up with the bronze medal, making him the first U.S. man to win a medal in his senior World debut since 1991.

After short program errors wound up costing him a 2006 Olympic medal (he was fourth), Lysacek seemingly was far from medal contention at the anticlimactic post-Olympic 2006 Worlds after another botched short, but he rallied to get a second



Evan Lysacek and his coach Frank Carroll react to the skater's victory at the 2009 World Championships in Los Angeles.

straight bronze.

In 2007, when Lysacek won his first U.S. title with one of the most dazzling technical free skates in that meet's history (one quad, two triple Axels among his seven triples), the event in Spokane ended so late (after 1 a.m. on the East Coast) that few heard what he had done until a day after — if at all.

"This," said four-time World champion Kurt Browning of Canada about Lysacek's free skate, "was a clinic."

In 2008, the story was not how Lysacek won his second title but the unlikelihood of needing a tie-breaker to decide the title (the free skate result) because he and Weir both had 244.77 points — the only such tie for a medal in any discipline since the IJS was first used at the U.S. Championships in 2006.

At the 2009 Worlds in Los Angeles, Lysacek caught no TV scheduling breaks, either, with the men's final on a Thursday having been shown on a network called Oxygen and, once again, ending around 1 a.m. in the East.

Even with his triumph at the 2009 World Championships, Lysacek's achievements kept flying under the radar.

This time, though, what Lysacek did merited a replay during NBC's prime-time Saturday telecast of the women's final.

So a much bigger audience got to hear the standing ovation that started 10 seconds before the end of Lysacek's program and

PHOTO BY BRIAN BAH/ALL SPORT

PHOTO BY HEINZ KLUTMEIER

turned into a roar as he put his hands on his head in an expression of delighted disbelief over becoming the first U.S. man to win a World title in 13 years.

Skating to Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," he cleanly landed eight triple jumps, spun effortlessly, received positive grades of execution on 12 of 13 elements, and a neutral grade on the other and was rewarded with the highest level for all of his spins.

"I was trying not to get too excited with each element, but I kept wanting to throw my hands in the air," Lysacek said.

So a year later, at the Vancouver Olympics, the radar would be pinpointing him. And, as was the case for 2009 women's World champion Yu-Na Kim, the best was yet to come for Lysacek.

KWAN BIDS PAINFUL FAREWELL AT PRESS CONFERENCE

The last of the hundreds of *Chicago Tribune* stories in which I covered Michelle Kwan as a competitor did not come from part of a competition.

It came, alas, from the Turin, Italy, press conference in which Kwan, then 25, talked about the painful decision she had made a few hours earlier to withdraw from the 2006 Olympics.

I knew that for all intents and purposes, it was also a retirement announcement for the most decorated and beloved figure skater in U.S. history, the greatest skater ever whose career would not include an Olympic gold medal.

That press conference came a day after Kwan cut short her first practice in Turin, skating 24 difficult minutes of an allotted 40, and left in tears after falling on four of five triple jump attempts. The proximate cause was a groin injury that had kept her from Olympic-style competition since a fourth-place finish at the 2005 Worlds and had led her to petition successfully for an Olympic spot. But her body appeared to be generally giving in to the pounding of 13 years as an elite senior skater and the increased technical demands of the new judging system.

"I have my tried my hardest," Kwan said at the press conference. "If I don't (ever) win the gold, it's OK. I've had a great career. I've been very lucky."

In the 2000s, Kwan added an Olympic bronze to her 1998 silver, won six more U.S. titles for a record-tying nine, five more World medals (three gold, one silver, one bronze) also for a total of nine (5-3-1) — three more than any U.S. skater has ever won.

"If people take time to look at her body of work, that equalizes the one thing she doesn't have," 1988 Olympic champion



Phil Hersh and Michelle Kwan reconnect at the 2016 World Championships in Boston.

Brian Boitano said.

In the 2000s, the Kwan performance I remember most vividly came in the free skate at the 2004 Atlanta U.S. Championships. Full of emotional fire, more confident and solid in her jumps than ever, she brushed away short program winner Sasha Cohen's presumed challenge.

"I'm afraid I'll keep on skating and skating and skating, and I'll forget I'm not 20 anymore," Kwan told me in a phone conversation a week before the 2004 U.S. Championships. "I want chapters in my book, not just one long chapter."

The skating chapters ended with the press conference in Turin. The subsequent ones have included work as the candidate's surrogate on two presidential campaigns (the latter Joe Biden's), bachelor's and master's degrees, a public diplomacy envoy role for the State Department, a senior advisor's job at State and a Special Olympics global ambassadorship. In writing about those, I have felt that as remarkable as Kwan's career as a figure skater had been, what she has done since is even more impressive.

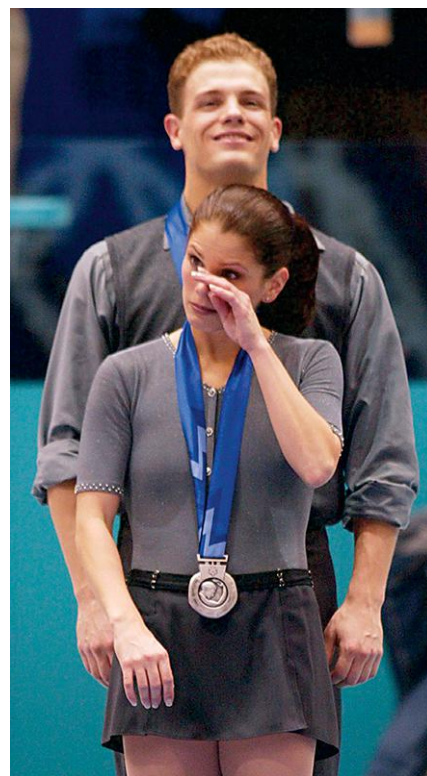
MY TAKE ON THAT PAIRS 'THING'

There was that pairs thing at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics.

No matter who apparently tried to corrupt whom, Russians Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze deserved the gold medal they wound up sharing with Canadians Jamie Salé and David Pelletier.

Giving a second gold to the Canadians was an expedient ex post facto decision demanded by the International Olympic Committee. The IOC wanted to prevent the rest of the Games from falling into the maw of an extended controversy fomented by television commentary and foaming-at-the-mouth Canadian Olympic officials.

Never before had a second Olympic gold medal been given to rectify a problem caused by a judge's alleged misconduct in a subjectively judged sport.



The Canadian pairs team of Jamie Salé and David Pelletier eventually were awarded gold medals after a judging scandal was uncovered at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Oh, how this might have been avoided if only Salé and Pelletier had revived their magnificent "Tristan and Isolde" free skate program from the previous season when they decided to switch programs not long before the Olympics.

Instead, it was back to the 2000 program with the schlockfest of themes from that soap operatic movie *Love Story*, while the Russians performed to the pure, elegant romanticism of "Meditation" from the Massenet opera *Thais*.

The North American audience preferred error-free schmalz. Five of the nine judges did not.

The Russians' seamless flow, beautiful edge work and connecting movements, and understated skating won out on presentation scores, their one flawed jump landing an insignificant blip.

Case closed.

Philip Hersh has reported from the last 11 Winter Olympics, 35 U.S. Figure Skating Championships and 20 World Figure Skating Championships. He spent 31 years as the Chicago Tribune's Olympic writer and now is a contributor to nbc sports.com. In 1998, U.S. Figure Skating recognized him for "Distinguished Journalism."

PHOTO BY JAMIE McDONALD/GETTY IMAGES

‘TAKE IT ALL IN’

Improbable Olympic victory remains etched in Hughes’ mind

BY PHILIP HERSH

Her free skate was over. The Delta Center was in an uproar, the crowd on its feet in acclaim for a performance of such startling brilliance that even its protagonist, Sarah Hughes, was left wide-eyed and slack-jawed, saying, “Wow,” as she took her bows and blew kisses to the audience.

Hughes, a 16-year-old high school junior, wove across an ice surface littered with flowers and stuffed animals to the corner where her ecstatic coach, Robin Wagner, was standing behind the boards. The two hugged, Hughes with her back to the rink, before Wagner told her to close her eyes, turn around and then open her eyes.

“Stay on the ice,” Hughes remembers Wagner saying. “Take a minute, look around. Take it all in so you keep this moment with you.”

Nearly 20 years later, as attorney Sarah Hughes spoke via FaceTime from the Manhattan apartment that has been both her home and office during the pandemic, the feeling of joy taking in that scene remains her most vivid memory of what she did at the 2002 Winter Olympics, an Olympics when the American flags waving to salute her were symbolic of something far more poignant than patriotism.

Some 40 minutes would pass and four more skaters would perform before she was part of an even more dramatic scene, with Hughes and Wagner both literally falling from a locker room bench to their knees when an



Sarah Hughes and her coach Robin Wagner display sheer joy following her electric Olympic free skate.

NBC cameraman told them, “You won. You won.”

It was the most improbable outcome to a women’s Olympic figure skating competition anyone could have imagined.

Hughes’ U.S. teammates, Michelle Kwan and Sasha Cohen, and Russia’s Irina Slutskaya each could have won the gold medal by winning the free skate. That alone would not be enough for Hughes; fourth after the short program, she also needed to have Kwan, the short program winner, finish third or lower.

Hughes would win the free skate with a flawless presentation of a program that, remarkably, used music selections and a jump layout she had never competed with before the Olympics. Kwan would stumble to third. Slutskaya was second, left complaining (with no legitimate reason) about her scores in an Olympics then still in the shadow of a gigantic controversy about the pairs result.

The impact of Hughes’ triumph was magnified not only by the events in Salt Lake City but the events that had traumatized her country five months earlier. The 9/11 terrorist attacks were close to home for Hughes, from Long Island’s Great Neck, New York, where a rink she skated at as a child would be renamed for a financial executive killed in the twin towers collapse.

Five Great Neck residents, one a firefighter, died in the attack. A tattered American flag found in the wreckage at ground zero in Lower Manhattan was carried into the 2002



Sarah Hughes basks in the moment after winning the Olympic gold medal.



Hughes holds her diploma from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in May 2018, with Philadelphia City Hall in the background.

Opening Ceremony by eight U.S. Olympians, escorted by five New York policemen and five fire department members.

“It had been such a terrible few months for the country, especially for my home area, that knowing what I did brought a little joy to people is something very meaningful to me,” she said.

In the exhibition gala following her triumph, Hughes performed a poignant tribute to the victims of the attack, introduced by a voiceover of her speaking about loss and hope.

“What an unexpected gift she was to this Olympic Games,” NBC commentator and 1984 Olympic champion Scott Hamilton said during the gala telecast.

PHOTO BY TIM DE WAELE/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH HUGHES

PHOTO BY TIMOTHY A. CLARY/GETTY IMAGES

Hughes came into the Olympic season as the reigning World bronze medalist, a medal contender but seemingly not a title contender. She had finished third at the 2002 U.S. Championships using a free skate program that did not strike a chord with her or Wagner.

"It was flat from start to finish," Hughes said.

Soon after nationals, she and Wagner recut the music, keeping only the first of three sections — from Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* — and, most notably, scrapping the last section. Out went the soft, romantic ending from Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 2." In came a pulsating piece of the Bacchanale from "Daphnis," guaranteed to create intense energy at the finish.

As Hughes worked on changing her interpretive approach to suit the new music, she recalled also practicing two different program layouts. One included two triple-triple jump combinations. The other came into play if she did not do one of the triples in the initial combination, as had happened at the U.S. Championships.

"That was not my training personality," Hughes said. "I'm the kind of person who had to know how many crossovers I do before each jump."

In fact, Hughes never had done the two combinations in competition before Salt Lake City. At the Olympics, she nailed a triple Salchow-triple loop on the second of six jumping

passes, a triple toe-triple loop on the fifth pass. She had become the first woman to land two triple-triples at the Olympics.

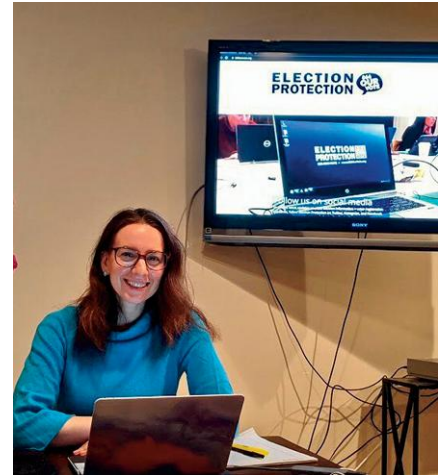
Hughes did not recall all the specifics. When she thinks about it, her perspective is wider.

"It definitely affected the trajectory of my life," she said.

In the short term, she was an instant celebrity, with all the chaos and distractions that brings. She would compete one more season, her senior year of high school, finishing second at the U.S. Championships, and sixth at Worlds before heading to Yale in the fall of 2003.

Hughes took a leave after her freshman year to headline Stars on Ice, lost another academic year to illness, and graduated in 2009 with a degree in American studies. She spent a couple of years with a team doing a redevelopment project in the Bronx that has never come to fruition, then enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, graduating in 2018. She now is a junior associate at the firm of Proskauer Rose.

"It was such an intense few years for my small (support) team leading up to the Games and then this moment," Hughes said. "I'd like to say they believed I could do it, and maybe they did, but that it would happen is just something I don't think any of my team fathomed."



Hughes, a junior associate with the law firm of Proskauer Rose, conducts election protection pro bono work.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH HUGHES

"To take that moment and look around is something that has stayed with me. And something that is very special."

For several years, Hughes served on various U.S. Figure Skating committees. After a decade of not spending much time on the ice, she has started skating again occasionally during the pandemic.

In four minutes at Salt Lake City, she had a skate that will last forever.

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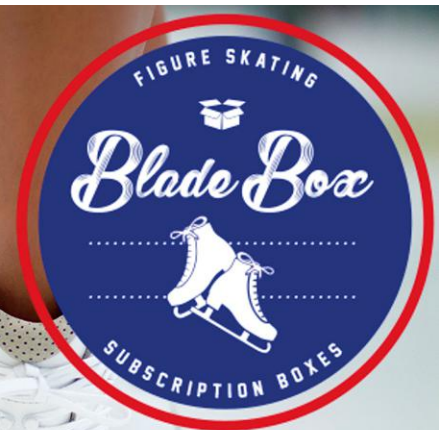
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EDITOR'S NOTE: U.S. Figure Skating is celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2021. As part of this historic celebration, SKATING magazine will recognize 100 "contributors" to the organization. In each issue, we will profile 10 people who have made 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.

FRANK ZAMBONI KEPT THINGS CHILL

BY ED RABINOWITZ

Frank Zamboni was a renowned American inventor and engineer. It's also fair to say he was a pretty cool guy.

Sorry, bad pun.

Frank Joseph Zamboni is best known for inventing the ice resurfacer, more commonly referred to as a Zamboni machine, a staple at skating rinks worldwide. Born out of necessity in 1949 and refined in subsequent years, the Zamboni reduced the resurfacing of an ice rink from 90 minutes to 15.

Just imagine fans at an NHL game or figure skating event waiting 90 minutes during intermissions. Talk about being kept on ice.

OK, that's the last bad pun ... I promise.

Zamboni grew up on a farm in Lava Hot Springs, Idaho. In 1922, he and his brother Lawrence opened an electrical supply business near Los Angeles and added an ice-making plant in 1927, providing block ice to wholesalers, enabling them to transport produce and dairy products by rail across the country. But by 1939, the advent of electrically operated refrigeration units greatly reduced the need for block ice.

The brothers decided to put their excess refrigeration equipment to good use and opened the Iceland Skating Rink in Paramount, California, which still operates today,

just a few blocks from the Zamboni factory.

Ever the innovator, Zamboni soon recognized the challenge of maintaining an ice surface that was being used by up to several dozen skaters at a time. He also realized the inefficiency of using a tractor to pull a scraper across the surface, followed by four or five men scooping away the shavings while spraying the surface with water. It took a few iterations, but by the summer of 1949, the Model A Zamboni Ice Resurfacer became a reality, and soon thereafter a patent was awarded.

"It took him nine years," Zamboni's son, Richard, has said. "One of the reasons he stuck with it was that everyone told him he was crazy."

Stubborn and successful, too.

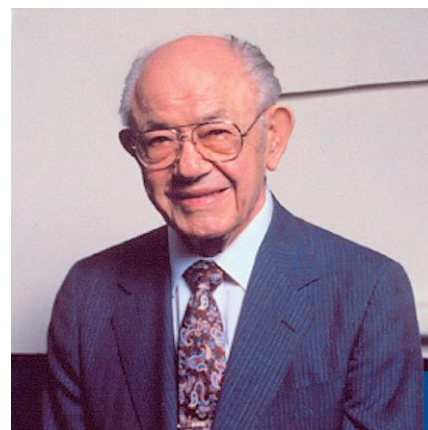
News of Zamboni's invention began to travel and soon garnered the attention of three-time Olympic figure skating champion and 10-time World titlist Sonja Henie of Norway. She was practicing in Iceland for her traveling ice show when she saw the machine in action, and she asked Zamboni to build one for her. He did, and Henie later took delivery of a second unit.

Word continued to spread. The Ice Capades ordered one, and soon thereafter ice rinks from Massachusetts to Texas were ordering units.

One concern, however, was raised by Arthur Wirtz, the owner of Chicago Stadium and the man responsible for presenting Henie's tour. He reportedly told Zamboni that, due to the novelty of the machine, "People will stay in the stands and watch it and not go down to the concession stands."

In fact, *Peanuts* creator Charles Schulz integrated that thought into his comic strip, with main character Charlie Brown noting that a Zamboni clearing the ice is one of the three things in life that people like to stare at, along with a crackling fire and a flowing stream.

However, by 1954, seeing the machine's effectiveness following an Ice Capades show at the Boston Garden on New Year's Day, management for the NHL's Boston Bruins knew they needed to have a machine on hand as well.



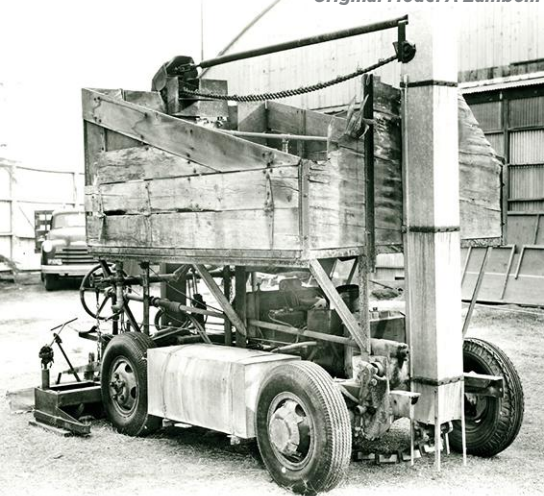
Frank Zamboni

As Zamboni pointed out to rink owners worldwide, "The principal product you have to sell is the ice itself." And he was right.

Frank Zamboni was as comfortable on solid ground as he was on ice. In the early 1970s, stadiums began installing artificial turf in place of grass as a way to reduce upkeep. When it rained, however, water collected on the surface and left the field unplayable. Artificial turf manufacturers approached Zamboni about developing a machine that could remove the rain water and thus prevent unnecessary delays. That led to the Astro Zamboni machine, as well as two other offshoots: a machine that helped roll and unroll the surface to accommodate different events, and another that removed paint from the surface.

Zamboni, who passed away in July 1988 at the age of 87, was inducted into the Ice Skating Institute's Hall of Fame in 1965, and was awarded an honorary doctorate of engineering from Clarkson University in 1988. Posthumously, he was inducted into the Northeast Ice Skating Managers Association Hall of Fame, the United States Figure Skating Hall of Fame, the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame, the National Inventors Hall of Fame, the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame and into the United States Speed Skating Hall of Fame.

Original Model A Zamboni





Kati Becker with daughter Claire

KATI BECKER

The COVID-19 pandemic put a strain on skating rinks, as it did on nearly all businesses. The Detroit Skating Club had a secret weapon in the fight, though: Kati Becker. Becker is a school nurse and was crucial in helping the rink interpret CDC guidelines.

"She showed people how to do temperature checks and walked them through all the protocols," Detroit SC President Christina Maxbauer said.

Becker began working at the rink in 2010, when her daughter Claire started in Learn to Skate USA classes.

"From then on she has been volunteering and taking on more and more as the need showed itself," Maxbauer said.

Having a nurse around has been enormously helpful for the rink.

"If someone gets hurt when she's there, someone always says, 'Where's Kati?'" Maxbauer said. "We have several other parents who are medical professionals as well."

Becker is much more than a nurse, though. She is the secretary for the board of directors, chairperson for security/ushers at the annual Detroit SC ice show and the chairperson for the ice monitors for Skate Detroit. She also served as a team manager for her daughter's synchronized skating team for many years, making sure that the skaters were together and ready for practices, that their costumes included the necessary accessories and that everyone was safe and in the right place when the team traveled.

After missing a year due to the pandemic, the club once again hosted Skate Detroit in 2021. Becker's official job was taking care of the ice monitors, but she noticed that the volunteers had been somewhat overlooked, so she busied herself getting food for them and making sure they had what they needed.

That's the way Becker is, Maxbauer said. "She's very sweet; I don't think I've ever

heard her say a bad thing about anybody. She's just a joy to be around. She is almost shy, but she's kind of in the background, taking care of things. She doesn't get ruffled."

Jerod Swallow, managing director at the Detroit SC, added: "We are fortunate at the Detroit Skating Club to have a volunteer who sets an example and fosters volunteerism through the generations of our club membership. She leads by example and gives her time to our club without hesitation. Kati is an outstanding volunteer and we are lucky to have her serving our club."

— Sarah S. Brannen

KATHY BOSWORTH

In the Pacific Northwest, Kathy Bosworth has proven indispensable as someone who serves the skating community.

She is the treasurer and test co-chair for the Carousel Sherwood Figure Skating Club in Sherwood, Oregon, and a member and one of the founders of the Oregon Skating Council (with seven member clubs). Bosworth serves as the chief accountant or technical accountant at most competitions in the region.

But regardless of which hat she is wearing, Bosworth's priority remains the same: the skaters.

The athletes are what led her to the sport years ago.

"Her neighbors' daughters needed rides to the ice rink to skate," Malia Geary, president of the Carousel Sherwood FSC, said. "Kathy volunteered to take the kids to the rink, and after that she started volunteering with the club."

Geary met Bosworth after she volunteered to help organize the Carousel Sherwood FSC's annual competition. Over the years, she has watched as Bosworth's passion for those on the ice has left a lasting impact

the lives of countless skaters.

"She's very compassionate and she looks at what's best for the skater," Geary said. "I think that comes from her knowledge of U.S. Figure Skating and how important that is."

Having such a wealth of information paved the way for Bosworth to influence the skating community in bigger ways. She played a key role in bringing large-scale events, including national competitions, to the area; she can always be counted on to help visiting officials navigate the ropes. In 2005, she was part of the local organizing committee that brought the U.S. Championships to Portland.

Her work has led to greater exposure for the Pacific Northwest.

"[I think] bringing the competitions out here, it just excites people to skate," Geary said. "It keeps the skaters going. It gives them something to work for."

Regardless of what she is doing, Bosworth approaches each task in the same way.

"She just does everything with her heart and her soul, and she doesn't do anything halfway," Geary said.

— Robyn Clarke

NOELLE GHORAM

Noelle Ghoram provides an infusion of energy and new ideas as a longtime member of the Figure Skating Club of Charleston in North Charleston, South Carolina.

Ghoram started skating at age 8 and passed her senior moves-in-the-field and senior free skate tests before graduating high school. As a teen, she served on the club's junior board. Ghoram attended Duke University, where she was a member of its figure skating team. From there, she competed as an adult, placing second at the 2019 U.S. Adult Championships in the masters junior-senior event. Ghoram then turned her sights

Kathy Bosworth and her dog Duke



Noelle Ghoram



to judging and recently received her gold appointment.

Today, she is the club's secretary and a leader in making the club, based out of the Carolina Ice Palace, vibrant and progressive.

"She has helped elevate the club in the past two years by helping host its first IJS competition," FSC of Charleston President Elizabeth Reed said. "As a judge herself, she was able to give a unique perspective in the planning of the 2021 Charleston Open. She was a huge part of making the event, even during COVID, a success. Noelle is an essential part of the Figure Skating Club of Charleston."

Ghoram strives daily to bring new and fresh ideas to the club and wants each skater to have the best experience possible and get the most out of his or her membership.

"Most recently, she led our finance committee to create the 2021–22 budget and incorporate more of our new initiatives," Reed said. "These initiatives include virtual test sessions, club ice and holiday events. She takes detailed notes at meetings and helps with the day-to-day activities within the club."

At the national level, Ghoram is on several committees as an athlete representative. Those roles include serving on the Collegiate Skating Subcommittee, Accountants and Technical Accountants Subcommittee and Officials Training Committee.

"Noelle does so much and we are proud to have her as part of our team," Reed said.

— *Troy Schwindt*

ANGI GRANT

Angi Grant wears many hats. By day, she is a senior operations attorney for a law firm in Columbia, South Carolina. When the clock strikes 5 — and every hour in between — she is a wife and a mother. As if that is not enough to keep her busy, she is an adult skater and serves as president of the Palmetto Skate Club in Irmo, South Carolina.

"Honestly, I'm always impressed with how much she balances," Catherine McNicoll, a fellow member of the Palmetto SC and a longtime friend of Grant's, said.

McNicoll, also an attorney, met Grant while they were both in law school. The day the pair met, Grant was "eight months pregnant and looked fabulous," according to McNicoll. When she told Grant as much, her classmate responded that she stayed in shape ice skating. That was enough to push McNicoll to get involved with the sport.

Now, years later, McNicoll is there



Angi Grant

to support her friend as Grant does everything she can to keep the Palmetto SC running smoothly. Grant is responsible for the behind-the-scenes operations of the organization, including negotiating with the management at Flight Fit N Fun to make sure skaters have ample ice time and access to all the resources they need to be successful.

Just recently, the club received a donation to replace its harness system. Grant had to negotiate with the rink regarding insurance so the harness could be installed for members to use.

McNicoll has seen the club grow in a variety of ways under Grant's leadership.

"I think we've built a much better system of getting volunteers involved," she said. "As well as I've seen a much better balance of the interests of adult skaters and the [younger athletes]."

In the past three years, Grant has served as the club's competition chair. Her many duties have included recruiting judges to work the events and volunteers to make sure things go smoothly.

"She's professional, funny and warm," McNicoll said. "She's just an awesome person."

Perhaps Grant's success in the leadership position can be attributed to the fact that she, too, knows what it is like to be on the ice. She began skating after bringing her daughter to a rink one afternoon. Both mother and daughter stepped on the ice, fell in love with skating, and have not looked back.

Grant's daughter is a driving force behind her dedication to the Palmetto Skate Club, and the woman with many hats demonstrates that with the right motivation,

juggling — and succeeding — at a variety of roles can be done.

— *Robyn Clarke*

LARRY HOLLIDAY

Larry Holliday has had many notable accomplishments in his long skating career, including being the first person ever to land a triple jump at the U.S. Adult Championships in 2002. He has been the masters men's champion at the event six times — so far.

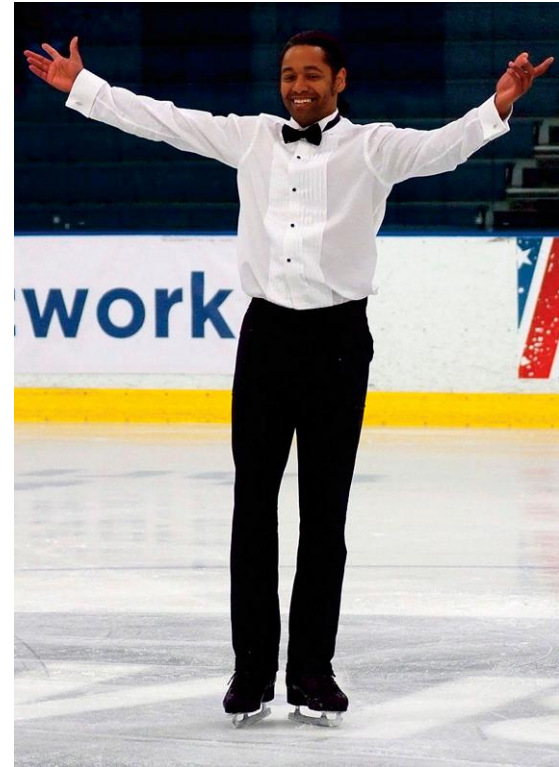
As a skater and coach, Holliday has a long association with the McFetridge Sports Center and the Windy City Figure Skating Club in Chicago.

"Larry is one of the more popular coaches," said his fellow coach at McFetridge, Jenny Ward. "He likes to make skating fun, but he's also firm when he needs to give a little push. I've always admired his competitive drive for his own skating. Even when he's had injuries and surgeries, he's always motivated to get back to adult nationals and do well. He shows skaters that you can skate at any age."

"He was so vibrant, so fun — you could tell that he loved what he did," one of Holliday's former students, Savannah Hoover, said. "He didn't make me feel pressured, which was super important for me. He was definitely my favorite coach."

Holliday grew up in Chicago and began skating at the age of 12. He competed at the U.S. Championships as a novice in 1982 and made it back to the event in 1990 for a 10th-place finish in the championship men's event.

Larry Holliday



He competed at the U.S. Championships four times as a senior, the last time in 1994.

Holliday was one of the few Black skaters when he competed. As a pro, he co-directed and performed in the second run of "Ebony on Ice" theater shows.

"He was part of the Black skating community, and that was something he was really proud of," longtime student Liz Schmidt said. "He told us stories of discrimination, disrespect — he was very honest with us. You have to keep pushing. ... If you don't keep trying, it will never be fixed."

Schmidt and another longtime student, Alan Berger, talked about Holliday's drive and competitive spirit, both for skating and for his other passion, tennis. They said he was dedicated to helping his students.

"When my parents couldn't afford private lessons, he always helped us out," Berger said. "He never gave up on me. He wasn't going to let something as little as my parents' finances hold me back as an individual athlete."

"Larry would pick me and another kid up at 5:45 in the morning, and we would skate the session and then he would drive us to school," Schmidt said. "Larry was above and beyond being a coach. His putting that extra effort in made it possible for us to skate."

Holliday also coached and choreographed special needs skaters, helping them prepare for the Special Olympics.

"It seemed like Larry was helping us find ourselves and tell our story," Hoover said. "Being raised in mostly white settings can be uncomfortable. When I found that teacher who looked like me, the teachers who were there to tell their stories as queer folks or black and brown folks, this really opened portals for me, especially growing up as a bi-racial queer person. It was a safe space around him, always."

— Sarah S. Brannen

KONRAD HUPPI

While a figure skating board of directors operates as a team, there is usually one person who stands out — the glue, if you will, to hold the pieces together.

For the Washington Figure Skating Club, that person is Konrad Huppi, the organization's treasurer. He's served on the board for more than 25 years.

"He's the backbone of our club," Jill Cantrill, membership chair of the organization, said. "He's the one who's always there. He is calm and deliberative and knows how to fix problems."



Konrad Huppi

She met Huppi when she joined the club and became a volunteer. Over the years, she has watched Huppi do whatever is needed to ensure the organization's success.

"His character is the type of person that you can always depend upon," she said. "He does everything from fixing our printers when we get into trouble during a test session to keeping our books and finances stable."

"He will do everything the club needs in order to make sure our skaters have a place to skate and have the opportunity to increase their skills and talent."

Huppi served as the club's president when the World Figure Skating Championships were held in Washington, D.C., in 2003. He was instrumental in the club's role of running Worlds in the area.

"He tirelessly assists at club events," Cantrill said. "His steady, enthusiastic work for our club has made us one of the largest clubs in the U.S."

Huppi's investment in the club extends beyond his role on the board. Two of his daughters coach synchronized skating, and his younger children are trying their hands at figure skating. Their participation has amplified Huppi's affinity for skating and subsequently increased his desire to see the organization succeed.

"He's invested in skating because he just loves the sport," Cantrill said.

By putting in numerous hours when no one is watching, Huppi continues to give athletes something that they all yearn for: an opportunity to lace up skates and get on the ice.

"He's instrumental in making it possible to run the club financially and in a stable way," Cantrill said. "We are optimizing our testing and our competitions, so that our skaters have the experience and learn how to become stronger through the impact of their coaches."

LORI MALTHANER

The Atlanta Figure Skating Club counts itself fortunate to have Lori Malthaner helping organize its competitions and cultivating its judging pool.

Malthaner joined the Atlanta FSC in 2015 after moving to the area where her husband got a job. Originally, the mother of two joined to get involved with trial judging. Her credentials as an official and roles within the club, however, quickly expanded.

"As club officials, we recognized immediately great talent and invited Lori to join our club board," competition chair Tea Junnila said. "Lori has helped organize competitions, and during events, you see her being the first inside the rink at 5 a.m. and being the last one closing the door at midnight. Lori's calm and always professional demeanor has carried us successfully through many events."

Malthaner has served as the club's officials liaison, competition registrar, club secretary, board member and member of the nominating committee.

She travels to many competitions as an official. With U.S. Figure Skating, she has been a South Atlantic Regional vice chair for singles and pairs and served on the Judges Management and Officials Recruitment subcommittees.

"She is loved by everyone and is very kind," Atlanta FSC President Catherine Hackney said. "She is soft spoken but a very hard worker. She always stays calm — you know how chaotic competitions can be."

Malthaner, who skated as a child in Texas and advanced to the novice level, helps organize and conduct the club's two primary competitions each year — the Magnolia Open in March and the Atlanta Open in June. With children involved in equestrian sports, her plate is full as a club volunteer.

Lori Malthaner



"She has a lot to juggle," Hackney said. "When you really love the sport, you stay involved. She's a beautiful person, she really is. We're lucky to have her involved with our club."

In addition to helping organize those primary competitions, Malthaner is working to coordinate the 2022 U.S. Figure Skating Championship Series event at the Cooler in Alpharetta, Georgia, set for Nov. 17–20.

That same event in 2021 and the 2020 Atlanta Open were canceled because of the pandemic.

"The time spent on those two competitions went unappreciated," Hackney said.

When she's not helping organize club competitions, Malthaner spends many hours as the regional vice chair reviewing data and helping new judges get appointments.

"Her dedication and hard work continue to benefit our skaters and U.S. Figure Skating," Hackney said.

"If I would have to find one word to describe Lori, among many possibilities, I would choose integrity," Junnila said. "When you do the right thing, even if no one is watching, it's called integrity — and that's Lori."

— Sarah S. Brannen

KELLY PAIGE

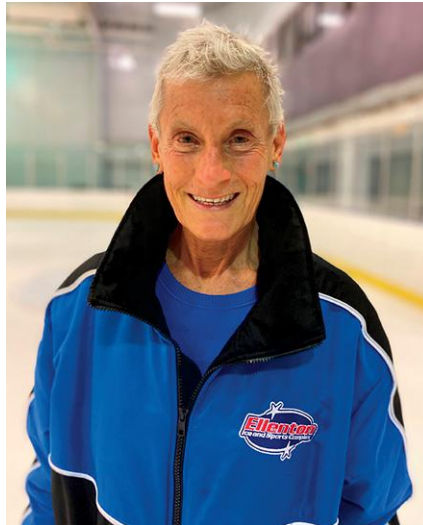
Kelly "Carrie" Paige has been a fixture on the Florida skating scene for more than two decades. She was 2010 Olympian Jeremy Barrett's first coach when the only rink in western Florida was a small sheet of ice in Venice, Florida.

"She is the best person to celebrate Florida skating," 2010 Olympic pairs skater Mark Ladwig said. "She's been here a long time, coaching and skating; her impact is felt across Florida."

Paige is a member of the Southwest Figure Skating Club, located at the Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex in Ellenton, Florida. She's been at the club since the rink opened its doors in August of 1999.

In addition to teaching group lessons and private lessons and coaching the "Tropical Spice on Ice" adult synchronized skating team, Paige is the club's test session chair.

"Kelly fills the rink with constant positive energy and determination," Ladwig said. "She skates on the adult synchro team that she coaches and is a choreographer for. Kelly has been the test chair for as long as I've known her, from before 2002 taking my senior pairs free skate test to today as I judge



Kelly Paige

at her request on test sessions she runs. She truly embodies the best of skating."

Paige is so well thought of that the Southwest FSC bestowed a special honor upon her.

"This year, we've dedicated a lifetime membership to Kelly," club figure skating director Shannon Raley said. "She's been the test chair for many years; she organizes everything for test sessions. She's a team player, always willing to help where needed — at competitions, shows and recitals. She's very giving with her time, even helping new skaters learn how to tie their skates. She's dedicated to the rink and the club but also the people who come into the rink, whether they're a customer or not."

The club holds three or four test sessions each year. Paige contacts and organizes the judges and coordinates the entries and the schedule.

"She also organizes the accounting to send to U.S. Figure Skating," Raley said. "It's a lot of work."

Donna Euston, who skates at the Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex, credits Paige with making skating fun for everyone.

"Kelly goes out of the way to make sure that everyone who wants to learn to skate is able to do so," Euston said. "She has made a huge impact on my life and many others."

— Sarah S. Brannen

JOANIE PERCIAVALLE

Joanie Perciavalle is an important and integral supporter of the San Antonio Figure Skating Club.



A former board member and secretary and a current coach at the club — for the past 15 years — Perciavalle's reputation as someone who is "kind, helpful and encouraging" precedes her.

"Coach Joanie always brings a fun, positive and enthusiastic approach to the challenge of figure skating," San Antonio FSC past president and current board member Sabrina Richey said. "Joanie loves coaching at all levels, from the youngest of learn to skate skaters to adult skaters, always finding the best way to teach and connect each student to the sport and U. S. Figure Skating."

Perciavalle is always willing to fill a volunteer spot and in the past has been proactive with the club's junior board activities, in which her daughter, Molly, participated as a board member.

Each February, the club hosts Alamo Skate. Perciavalle can be found wearing many different hats during the competition. When she's not coaching her own skaters, she'll step in and put fellow coaches' students on the ice when asked, or volunteer to help wherever needed.

"She also makes sure her students who are competing are supporting the competition and the club, as the event is our main fundraiser," San Antonio FSC Treasurer Tom Sauer said.

She continues to be the club's coach liaison, connecting the club's needs with coaches and the Ice & Golf Center at Northwoods rink.

With a master's degree in counseling, Perciavalle has made a difference in terms of communication and coach rapport within the club and at the rink.

"Just like at all rinks, certain issues arise between coaches, and coaches and skaters," Sauer said. "She just has this grace about her that cuts through it all and has been a tremendous value to the club in dealing with our coach relations and issues between coaches and skaters, etc. She's a confidant to someone who may need to talk to her. She's a very available person."

Added Richey, "Joanie is a selfless individual who embodies the true meaning of figure skating on the ice, off the ice and in her personal interactions. We should all strive to be like Joanie."

— Troy Schwandt

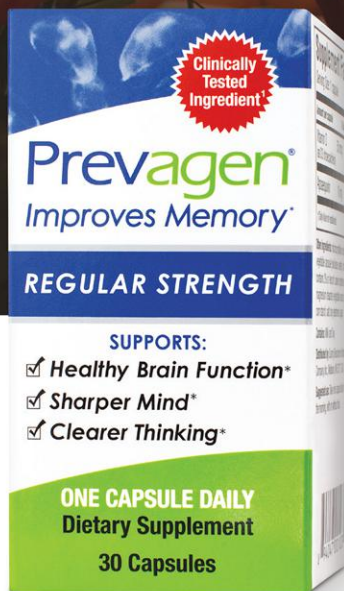
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HANS ROSEMOND PHOTOGRAPHY

Moving to Colorado Springs in the summer of 2020 and starting a new life and training regimen have Bradie Tennell excited about her Olympic season.



CHANGE OF SCENERY, NEW COACH REINVIGORATE TENNELL

BY DARCI MILLER

During the summer of 2020, Bradie Tennell was searching for something.

She had been off the ice during the COVID-19 lockdown in the spring and was struggling with a few little nagging injuries. The combination left her feeling stuck and desperately needing to get out of her comfort zone.

When Tennell's mom suggested she go out to Colorado Springs, Colorado, and train with Tom Zakrajsek at the World Arena for a little while in August, she was hesitant to take the leap and travel during a pandemic.

But mom put her foot down.

"OK, look," Tennell recalls her mom telling her. "Your indecision is killing me. Just get on the plane. Just go."

So Tennell went. And after one lesson with Zakrajsek, she was hooked.

"From my first lesson with him, I just learned so much," she said. "And then, by the third or fourth day, I was like, 'Mom, I think we need to have a talk, because I can't even imagine myself coming home. I love it here. I love Tom. I love everything he's teaching me. Everything he tells me makes sense.'"

"It was like I just fit."

OLYMPIC CITY, USA

About a month later, Tennell was dragging four heavy suitcases through empty airports en route to becoming a Colorado Springs resident.

It was the first time the 23-year-old moved away from home — not just from her hometown of Carpentersville, Illinois, but from the house she lived in with her mom and two brothers, Austin and Shane.

In Colorado, she lives in a basement

apartment with a roommate, and the quiet was quite an adjustment.

"My brothers have lived in the house my whole life, so I'm used to their constant chatter," Tennell said. "They're boys, which I love, and they're a constant mess in the background. And then I moved out here and I was like, 'OK, if I don't make the noise, then nobody's making noise, and why is it so quiet? What is this?'"

While Tennell's mom does make the occasional trip to visit, Tennell is otherwise living on her own for the first time. She keeps in touch with her brothers over FaceTime to stave off the homesickness but has had to learn how to manage all of her tasks by herself.

"It's scary. Adulting is hard," she said, with a laugh. "I miss my mom. She would just do random little things that I never really registered that were a big help for me."

Some of Colorado's most breathtaking scenery is just a short drive from Tennell's training facility.



CHUCK BIGGER/US FIGURE SKATING

Like just even going to the store. I get home from training and I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need to go to the store.'

"But when she comes out it's always really fun, and I'm really happy now. I feel like I'm living life to the fullest. Or as full as it can be during a pandemic."

Tennell had been to Colorado Springs a number of times before for U.S. Figure Skating's Champs Camp and various other camps and competitions, but had never had time to really see and explore the city. So the first weekend she was there with her mom last summer, they made sure to make a stop at Garden of the Gods — getting sunburnt in the process. She's also made several trips to the new U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum, once as a tourist and twice as an athlete ambassador, doing meet-and-greets in the lobby.

After not interacting with fans for a year, Tennell says she had forgotten how much fun it was.

"I was really excited to see fans and take pictures with them," she said. "Some of them were wearing masks, and it's a little different nowadays, but the feeling of these kids coming up to you and being so excited to meet you, that never changes, and that's something that makes me feel extremely lucky. And it's something that I love, because I remember being that little kid, so now being on the other side of the fence is really awesome."

BECOMING BRADIE 2.0

Zakrajsek met Tennell for the first time before she won the 2015 U.S. junior title, when her then-coach Denise Myers brought him to her rink in Chicago for a seminar.

"Bradie wanted to get things right," Zakrajsek recalls. "She was determined to make a correction and do something the right way. You might assume in a sport like this, where it's really exact, that some people would have to be that way. But there are a lot of skaters that only do things the way they're comfortable doing them, or the way they think their body should do them. But Bradie still is the kind of girl that wants to get it right, exactly the way it's supposed to be."

As the coach of other elite skaters, including Tennell's 2018 Olympic teammates Mirai Nagasu and Vincent Zhou, Zakrajsek kept up with Tennell through recent years. When she reached out to him in 2020, initially to consult on her triple Axel, he was happy to come on board, and he spent their first 10 days together just teaching her technique and drills for the jump.

"I think because the language of skating, so to speak, is so easy, I felt like I had coached her before, but I hadn't," Zakrajsek said. "It was so easy to teach her."

"We just clicked right away," Tennell echoed. "I kind of kept waiting for the nov-



Coach Tom Zakrajsek and Tennell developed immediate chemistry upon her arrival in 2020.

elty to wear off, but it never did. He always knows exactly what to say, and the right way to say it, which is something that I love. It's been refreshing, and I wake up every day and I'm so excited to get to the rink and train. I love the daily process of training. It's so much fun for me."

Adding to the fun is the environment fostered among the training group at the World Arena. Tennell has far more elite skaters as training mates in Colorado Springs than she did at her previous rink, and she says that seeing them all working so hard motivates her to work even harder.

"I did need a change for myself. I needed a different environment," Tennell said. "And when I came out here, I instantly found that. I became instant friends with Paige Rydberg, so I think that helped, too. I'm somebody who's not comfortable with change, but this was one change that I desperately needed. So I thought of it like going on an adventure, and seeing where it took me."

So far, it's taking her to all the right places. Zakrajsek says the two had discussed how she felt like she was at college, studying at a university, instead of in high school.

"We weren't going to change anything about her, because she's a great athlete, and she had great training," Zakrajsek said. "But we were going to try to take it to the next level, which meant her taking ownership of her training, her basically driving the decisions as to what was important."

"And I think, because of the elite skating atmosphere at the World Arena, and being on her own, away from mom, it seemed like this is her way of, what we termed last season, becoming Bradie 2.0."



Tennell took time out from her busy schedule at Champs Camp in Nashville for a photo shoot.

CHASING PERFECTION

Bradie 2.0 had a strong debut at the 2020 Guaranteed Rate Skate America, finishing second, before winning the 2021 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships, reclaiming the title she had previously won in 2018.

It was an accomplishment a long time in the making as, in the intervening years, one small thing always kept her off the top of the podium — she won silver in 2019 and bronze in 2020.

"We restructured her training so that she could deliver the long with the short," Zakrajsek said. "She wanted both performances in the same competition. The goal was for her to regain her title, which she did, but she wasn't focusing on that. She was focusing on seeing how good she could be, and then how did the numbers fall, and where would she finish in relation to the other top women in our country. So we weren't sure she could win, but what we were sure she could do was be her absolute best."



Tennell competes at the 2021 World Championships in Stockholm. She placed ninth, helping Team USA secure three spots at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

Not only did Tennell do her best, but she did so without fans in the arena and without Zakrajsek behind the boards, as he tested positive for COVID-19 just days before they were due to depart for Las Vegas.

"I just wanted to enjoy every moment of it. I wanted to leave the ice knowing that I put every single thing out there. And that's what I did. It turned out pretty good," Tennell said. "I remember finishing my program. I'm looking up at the ceiling and I'm like, 'I finally did it.'"

All she wanted to do was celebrate with her people, hug her mom and coach, but the tears and balloons had to wait until she arrived home.

Meanwhile, said mom and coach watched her free skate on the phone together.

"I wasn't out of quarantine," Zakrajsek said. "We were just watching it together, and very excited. I was jumping up and down. It was definitely a memorable moment."

While it was difficult on both of them for Zakrajsek to not be there in person, he says that it ended up being a fitting way for Tennell to win.

"It really was about her," Zakrajsek said. "It was about her stepping into herself

and saying, 'I can do this.' And the fact that I wasn't there physically underscored the fact that everything we had done to prepare her for that moment allowed her to thrive in that moment. Because it wasn't about me having to stand there and coach her through it. She was ready, she was confident to deliver those two programs. Our whole theme was about empowering Bradie. That is who Bradie 2.0 is. She is herself. She is comfortable in her own skin, with who she is, and to have it work out that way was pretty cool."

Tennell went on to finish ninth at the 2021 ISU World Figure Skating Championships while dealing with severe boot issues, which combined with Karen Chen's fourth-place finish earned the U.S. women the opportunity to secure a third Olympic berth for 2022.

At the 2018 Olympics, Tennell had just burst onto the elite international scene with a bronze medal at the 2017 Skate America. She arrived at her first Games green and wide-eyed.

"Everything about it just kind of opened my eyes in a new way," Tennell said. "I wasn't new to senior, but I was new to

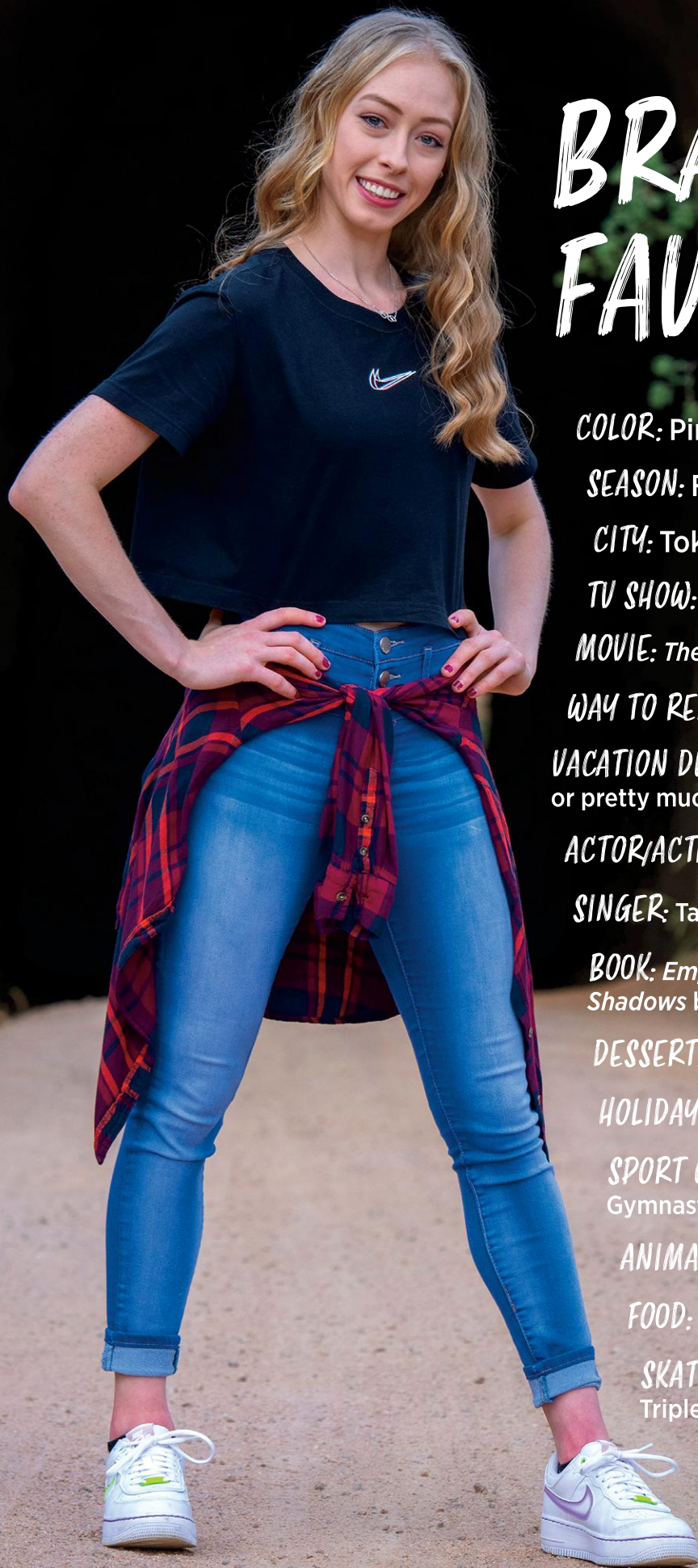
the level of attention that the Olympics has. And that was overwhelming for me. But I think that I liked how I did it, just diving headfirst into it, because that's kind of also me as a person. I just dive headfirst into things. I'm so grateful for the experience and how much I learned through it all."

With the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing fast approaching, Tennell is hoping all of her hard work culminates in another opportunity to represent her country on the biggest stage.

And training in Olympic City, USA has been the perfect path to get her there.

"There are days where I'll be sluggish. And then I'll look up and I'll see the rings on the wall and I'll be like, 'That's how I'm going to do it,' Tennell said. "That's what I'm doing this for. That's the goal, right there. That's why I'm on the ice this early."

"Every time I look up at the wall and see the rings there, I'm like, 'Nah, we're in this. That's the goal right there. I want that more than anything in the world, so I'm going to work to get it.'"



BRADIE'S FAVORITES

COLOR: Pink/black/dark mauve

SEASON: Fall

CITY: Tokyo

TV SHOW: "Friends" and "The Office"

MOVIE: *The Proposal*

WAY TO RELAX: Read

VACATION DESTINATION: Tokyo
or pretty much anywhere in Italy

ACTOR/ACTRESS: Zendaya & Jensen Ackles

SINGER: Taylor Swift

BOOK: *Empire of Storms* or *Queen of Shadows* by Sarah J. Maas

DESSERT: Ice Cream

HOLIDAY: Christmas

SPORT OTHER THAN SKATING:
Gymnastics or swimming

ANIMAL: Dog

FOOD: Pizza

SKATING ELEMENT:
Triple Lutz and triple loop

RISE TO THE TOP

2021 TOYOTA
SIENNA



NATHAN CHEN
U.S. OLYMPIAN



Prototype vehicle shown with options. Copyright 2021 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.



TOYOTA



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30 NOVEMBER 2021

GOOD LUCK THIS SEASON

MY FAVORITE PROGRAM

BY CAMDEN PULKINEN

When I think of my favorite program, the first one to come to mind is when I skated to “Caruso” by Lucio Dalla, as performed by Josh Groban.

Though I had much success when I competed this program, it wasn’t the accolades that made it memorable. Instead, it was the connection between the music and me that caused me to fall in love with it.

From the choreography, crescendos and everything in between, “Caruso” became the type of program that would transform me into a trance-like state. No thoughts or distractions could override my body when I hit my starting position. It was as if I was on autopilot.

I loved this program so much that I decided to keep it as my short program for the following season. No program will compare to “Caruso,” and that is OK. Instead of comparing new programs to the past, I realized that each program is a chance to show a different character or emotion, and none of that relies on previous programs.

But who knows, maybe one day I will bring “Caruso” back and experience the unforgettable feeling that this program brought me. Icemen — what do you think?

To learn more about the Icemen program, go to www.usfigureskating.org, click on Skate and Skating Opportunities.



Camden Pulkinen performs his favorite program, to “Caruso.”



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Zachary Donohue

Madison Hubbell

In this installment of the Athlete Corner, three former competitive skaters reveal what other sports they enjoy and the best advice they ever received from a coach.

ALEXANDER JOHNSON (MEN)

Skating club/current location:

Braemar City of Lakes FSC/Minneapolis, Minnesota

Did/do you play any other sports? If so, what were/are they?

I played soccer competitively until the age of 13 but tried many other sports when I was young. I recently started taking tennis lessons.

What's the best piece of advice you've received from your coaches?

Skate one moment at a time. It helped keep me grounded while competing and to fully cherish each experience. I wasn't always successful at being in the present, but when I was there, I was happier with the outcome as it was much more reflective of my abilities.



CHRISTOPHER KNIERIM (PAIRS)

Skating club/current location:

Broadmoor FSC/Irvine, California

Did/do you play any other sports?

I have always shared a love for a variety of sports. I love the discipline and skillset required to be successful in all sports. On the weekends I like to stay active by playing different sports with many of the pair guys here in Irvine. We try to get together to play football, basketball, golf, or anything else we can get ourselves into. I played basketball for a very short time while in high school and it's one of my favorite games to play.

What's the best piece of advice you've received from your coaches?

When you reflect on your career, you will not recall all the medals or performances. You will remember and value who was there with you every step of the way. Cherish those in your corner.



SARAH CHECKOSKY (SYNCHRONIZED SKATING)

Skating club/current location:

Denver Colorado FSC/Boston

Did/do you play any other sports?

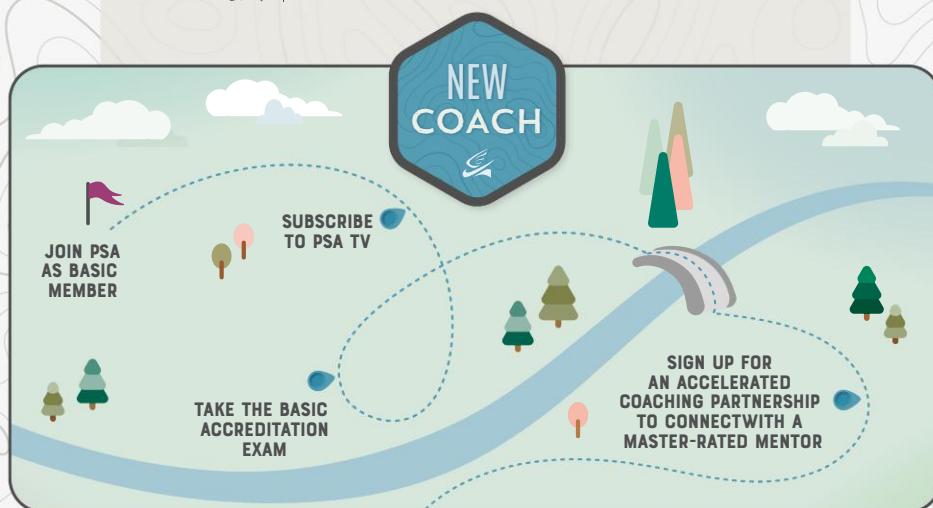
After my final season with the Haydenettes, I've recently picked up running. I'm training for the Boston Marathon, which has been a dream of mine for the past few years. It's been hard, but it has taught me that you can accomplish anything you set your mind to.

What's the best piece of advice you've received from your coaches?

Never take yourself too seriously. Toward my later years of skating, this helped me put things in perspective and enjoy all of the silly moments with my team that brought me happiness.



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COACH-ATHLETE-PARENT

Our next competitor representing the Figure Skating Club of Poise is ...

BY CAROLINE SILBY, PH.D. AND LAUREN MCHENRY, PH.D.

With the fall 2021 competitive season upon us, we want to take a moment to reflect upon the past year. Through uncertainty and physical and emotional challenges, we observed with admiration as U.S. Figure Skating athletes, coaches, parents, officials and staff members used their strengths to both support and seek support from one another.

As you venture back into in-person competitive events, we want to encourage everyone to build upon the lessons learned and resilience built over the last year. At the same time, we can expect the nerves to be heightened in competitive situations after a year in which opportunities to practice managing such situations were limited. To prepare for this, we ask you to consider the following question: Who performs on the day of a figure skating competition?

The immediate response would be *the skaters*. However, if you consider this question further, you might also include coaches, parents, officials and judges, because literally everyone performs on competition day.

While attention is most often directed toward the athlete, we invite all members of the athlete support team to redirect attention inward and consider how you can bring about your own best self on competition day. Athletes, coaches and parents can simultaneously bring their own poise to the moment to create an empowering and enjoyable experience for all while maximizing the opportunity for the athlete to align performance with capability.

Poise is strength under pressure; it is not perfection. Practicing poise is all about choosing to fill your attention with things that are helpful for performance in your role (athlete, coach, or parent) and letting go of the rest.

Athletes often perceive information that elicits an emotional response as important and urgent. For example, seeing a competitor who is technically stronger on practice ice may elicit feelings of doubt or fear that quickly fill an athlete's attention.

In our mental training work, we often refer to these kinds of thoughts and feelings as TBUs: "True But Useless" pieces of information. It's up to the individual (and sometimes the athlete, coach and parent together) to process this information and figure out whether it's important for performance. Hint: It usually isn't. Whether you are an athlete, coach or parent, consider the following smart tools to fill your attention with the right things at the right times on competition day.

SMART TOOL: ATHLETES

Reflect upon the information that is important to attend to and that allows your body to do what it knows how to do. This may include technical cues on the ice, a certain feeling related to the character of the program, a focus on simple facts that demonstrate readiness to perform (for example: "I've done this element well more than 100 times"), concrete truths about the competitive moment (for example: "It's a surface of ice"), along with mental and physical strengths you bring to the competitive moment.

SMART TOOL: COACHES

Reflect upon how you have used "acceptance of reality" in your coaching to fuel progression, and prepare to infuse little drops of acceptance into competitive moments. Think of acceptance as simply seeing reality — without judging a moment as good or bad — but rather as objective fact and information. Once you see and accept reality, you and your athlete can then take responsibility for, learn from and improve upon the current reality. Fill your attention with what is and what could be instead of getting frustrated about what should have been.

SMART TOOL: PARENTS

Watching your DNA succeed is pretty darn addictive. Reflect upon the information that is important to pay attention to in your role of loving your child no matter what. Unconditional parental love gives kids a haven from which to launch lofty dreams and ambitions. Conversely, children who believe their worth to mom or dad increases with every team assignment and trophy will most likely buckle under the weight of unrealistic expectations.

You can express unconditional love by

communicating to your children that your love is based on who they are rather than what they accomplish. The pursuit of excellence is then transformed from a daunting task to a realistic goal. Fill your attention with the intangible lessons you hope your child can learn from participating in the sport on competition day but also every day throughout this skating journey to allow your agenda to be set by what is best for your children's long-term health and well-being, not short-term goals.

Caroline Silby, Ph.D., M.Ed. holds a doctorate and master's of sports psychology from the University of Virginia. She is a nationally recognized expert on the development of young female athletes, and author of *Games Girls Play: Understanding and Guiding Young Female Athletes* (St. Martin's Press). Dr. Silby has worked with three Olympic champions; more than 20 Olympians; two Paralympic gold medalists; professional athletes from football, baseball, golf, tennis and soccer; and hundreds of national team members and Division I student-athletes, teams and their coaches. Dr. Silby is contracted as the head of sport psychology for U.S. Figure Skating.

Lauren McHenry, Ph.D., CMPC, NCC holds a doctorate in sport psychology and motor behavior and a master's in counseling from the University of Tennessee. Dr. McHenry is a certified mental performance consultant through the Association of Applied Sport Psychology and a national certified counselor, and she serves as a consultant to athletes, coaches and teams across sports nationwide. She is the lead author of two articles published in the *Journal of Applied Sport Psychology* based on her research of coach-athlete relationships in elite figure skating. Dr. McHenry is subcontracted to support the U.S. Figure Skating sport psychology team.

LACK OF ACCEPTANCE	ACCEPTANCE
<p>I'M NERVOUS:</p> <p>I don't like being nervous.</p> <p>I wish I wasn't nervous.</p> <p>My skate would be better if I wasn't nervous.</p> <p>Why am I always nervous?</p> <p>Why do I never get the results that I want?</p>	<p>I'M NERVOUS:</p> <p>Yep.</p> <p>Natural part of competition.</p> <p>This tells me that I care.</p> <p>This tells me that I can direct my attention to my breath.</p> <p>This tells me that I know I am capable.</p> <p>This tells me that I'm curious about how the performance will turn out.</p>



SKATING

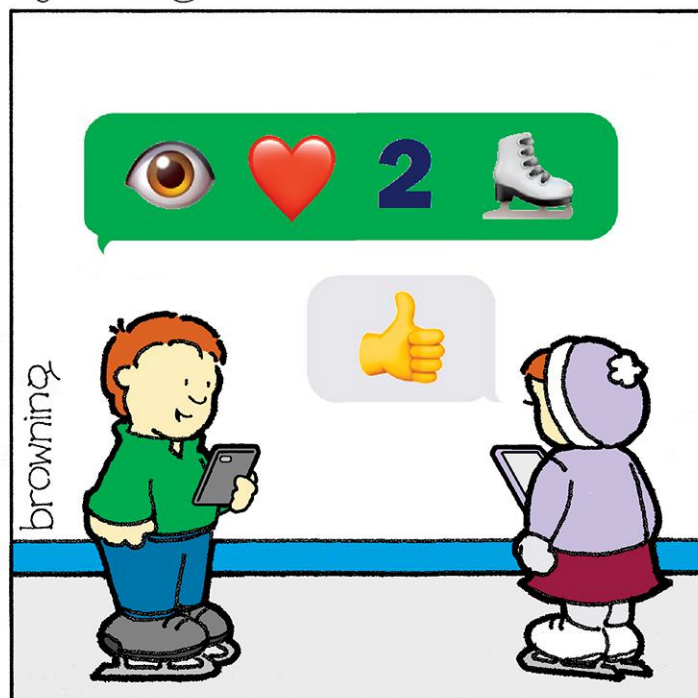
KIDS ZONE

PUZZLES BY
TAYLOR DEAN

Answers on page 64

Go Figure

by Gene Browning



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

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!

THANKSGIVING
CHALLENGE
ZAMBONI
BRADIE TENNELL
MICHELLE KWAN
GOLD MEDAL
AUTUMN
LAYBACK
TRIPLE AXEL
LEARN TO SKATE USA

KIDS SPOTLIGHT

ISADORA ALVELO-MALINA

Age: 9

Hometown:
Midland, Michigan

Club: Midland FSC

Levels: Pre-juvenile
free skate

Coach:
Steve Hartsell

How I got started:
When I was a little under age 3, I kept asking to go out and skate on my brother's learn to skate lessons, so my mom signed me up. I did my first ice show in the tot number later that year and loved it.

Favorite moves:

Double toe loop-double toe loop combination, double Lutz, broken leg sit spin

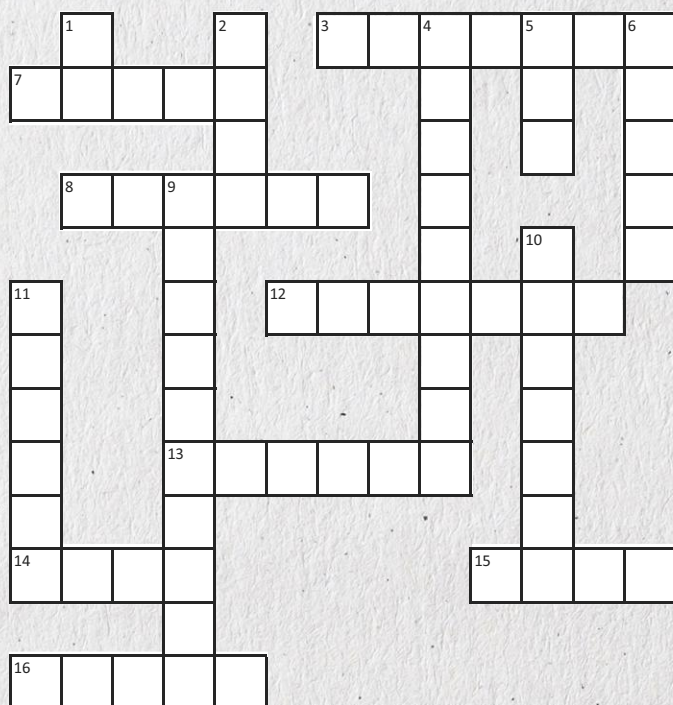
Favorite skaters:

Nathan Chen, Mariah Bell, Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker

Goals: To land my double Axel, pass senior moves before I turn 12 and compete at the U.S. Championships.

Hobbies: Playing piano and harp, ballet, playing with my dogs and bunnies





ACROSS

- 3 The international _____ system debuted at the U.S. Championships in 2006.
- 7 _____ Cohen won the silver medal at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in _____ Torino, Italy.
- 8 The traditional U.S. Figure Skating logo with the _____ was changed in 2003 to the one that's used today.
- 12 The U.S. International

Figure Skating _____ was held in Norwood, Massachusetts, in September.

- 13 1956 Olympic champion _____ Albright took a picture with those athletes competing at the 2021 U.S. Challenge Skate near Boston.
- 14 The National _____ Dance Final took place in September in Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- 15 Lorna _____ and John Carrell won three World medals and the 1967 U.S. ice dance title.
- 16 The Miami Red _____ won the first World synchronized skating medal for the U.S. in 2007.

DOWN

- 1 Jimmy _____ kicked off his season in style by winning a medal at a competition in his training town of Norwood, Massachusetts, in September.

- 2 U.S. Figure Skating rebranded its Safe Sport program to Skate _____.
- 4 The _____, Equity and Inclusion Task Force at U.S. Figure Skating was formed last year.
- 5 Henderson, Nevada, near Las Vegas recently opened a new _____ facility.
- 6 National _____ Day is Feb. 1. (two wds)
- 9 The website _____, launched in 2006, was a major source of all things figure skating until 2018.
- 10 The _____ between Johnny Weir and Evan Lysacek hit its peak with a tie at the 2008 U.S. Championships in St. Paul, Minnesota.
- 11 Sarah _____ jumped from fourth place after the short program to win the Olympics in 2002 in Salt Lake City.

If you would like to be featured in the KIDS Spotlight, email your information to tdean@usfigureskating.org and include action and nonaction skating photographs of yourself. Include in your submission your name, address, home phone number (not for publication) and U.S. Figure Skating member number. Complete as many of the categories that you see printed in the KIDS Spotlight as you want, and we might feature you.

KIDS SPOTLIGHT

VERA EE

Age: 8

Hometown:
Irvine, California

Club:
All Year FSC

Level: Juvenile moves in the field

Coach: Bianca Butler, Denys Petrov, Nadezda Kanaeva

How I got started: I started skating when I was 3 years old. My older sister, Violet was already skating, so my parents put me in her old skates

and I have been skating ever since.

Favorite moves:
Axel, double loop, double Salchow, sit spins

Favorite skaters:
Nathan Chen, Mariah Bell, Anna Shcherbakova

Goals: Land my double Axel before I turn 10.

Hobbies: Reading, writing, drawing and choreographing dance moves with my sister and friends.



'OUR WHOLE STORY'

Hubbell and Donohue lead U.S. charge with gold medal

BY SARAH S. BRANNEN

The 2021 U.S. International Figure Skating Classic brought some top U.S. skaters to The Skating Club of Boston in Norwood, Massachusetts, September 16–18. The event, which had been held in Salt Lake City since 2012, was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

World ice dance silver medalists Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue made



Ice dance medalists (l-r) Diana Davis and Gleb Smolkin (Russia), Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, Eva Pate/Logan Bye



This season's free dance for Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue is emotionally charged, as it tells the story of their long journey together.

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

2021 U.S. INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Eva Pate and Logan Bye display their intensity during their program to music from The Hunger Games.

their season debut. They won the gold medal, scoring 207.30 points overall. Their hip-hop rhythm dance to a Janet Jackson medley was choreographed by Sam Chouinard and one of Jackson's backup dancers, Vincent Noiseux.

"He's the one [Noiseux] who helped us create that mix of retro and more modern, sexy moves," Hubbell said. "We were a little surprised to land on this style. ... We really fell in love with it."

Performing with their trademark blend of strength and passionate softness, the team debuted a new free dance to "Drowning" by Anna Sila, choreographed by Marie-France Dubreuil and Scott Moir. The performance included a new dynamic Level 4 combination lift that earned them 14.26 points.

"It's a little bit of an ego boost for me, because find me another guy who can do a lift like that!" Donohue said, grinning.

"He's a beast, a very strong guy," Hubbell added.

The duo stated that this season will be their last as competitive skaters.

"There's a big story behind the program, our whole story, actually," Donohue said.

"There's a lyric that says, 'Hush now, just let me feel,' because there's nothing like skating, there's nothing like going out and performing, the adrenaline, the connection we feel with each other," Hubbell said. "We wanted to be as mindful as we could that these are our last chances."

Eva Pate and Logan Bye skated a dra-

Gabriella Izzo performs a passion-filled program in her hometown.



matic rhythm dance to Justin Timberlake's "Cry Me a River," and NSYNC's "Bye Bye Bye," in a little wink to Bye's name.

The team's darkly intense free dance to music from *The Hunger Games* included a mid-program costume change; Pate's dress may not have caught on fire but it did change instantly from black to flame red. The program culminated in a lift in which Pate, wearing her hair in a Katniss-style braid, mimed shooting a bow and arrow.

"We were happy with our skate today," Pate said. "I'm so proud of us, proud of where we've come since we started skating together. We didn't win the *Hunger Games*, but it's OK."

The team finished with 171.70 points and the bronze medal.

Shortly after the start of Lorraine McNamara and Anton Spiridonov's rhythm dance, a hook popped off Spiridonov's boot and they had to stop and restart, losing five points. They placed fifth with 161.82 points.

The Russian team of Diana Davis and Gleb Smolkin won the silver medal, scoring 190.63 points.

In the men's short program, Jimmy Ma went classical. Skating to *Swan Lake*, he showed off elegant lines and a big quad toe-triple toe that earned him a personal-best score of 84.07. He also sported a new hairstyle, a short ponytail.

"Every single time I go out on the ice I want to leave my heart there, nothing held back," Ma said. "After every competition I come back and start reflecting on things and realize that there are a lot more things that I could give, technically, aesthetically, how my hair is, how my costume is, how I present myself."

In the free skate, Ma presented an artistically strong program to music from the "Attack on Titan" Japanese anime television series. He opened with a clean quad toe-triple toe that earned mostly Level 4s from the judges. He secured the silver medal with

Women's medalists (l-r) Yeonjeong Park (South Korea), Alexandra Trusova (Russia), Gabriella Izzo



Men's medalists (l-r) Jimmy Ma, Michal Brezina (Czech Republic), Eric Sjoberg



2021 U.S. INTERNATIONAL CLASSIC



JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Jimmy Ma delivers a powerful performance en route to a silver medal.

233.58 points overall, another personal best.

Eric Sjoberg, skating in his first senior international competition, sat in third place after the short program, in which he landed a clean triple Axel and triple Lutz.

"I feel happy with my performance tonight," he said. "I feel that for the first time I felt my skate emotionally. Sometimes I feel disconnected but tonight I felt very with it."

In the free skate, performing to music from *Interstellar*, Sjoberg held on for the bronze medal with a total score of 221.12.

Camden Pulkinen finished fourth with 208.99 points. Maxim Naumov placed sixth with 207.39 points and Dinh Tran came in ninth with 176.72.

Three-time Olympian Michal Brezina of the Czech Republic won the event, posting a score of 238.65.

Nine skaters competed in the women's event, including four Americans. After the short program, Gabriella Izzo stood in third place with a score of 63.93. Her program to songs by Edith Piaf was choreographed by Adam Blake.

"I fell in love with this music when I saw Kaetlyn Osmond do it in 2018 in PyeongChang," Izzo said. "I absolutely love France, and I love French culture, so this music is just quintessential France, and it's so beautiful and so lively."

Izzo secured the bronze medal with her free skate to music from the movie *Sunset Boulevard*. She finished with 182.76 points. It was the second season with her "Sunset Boulevard" program, which she only performed once in the 2020–21 season.

Izzo grew up in Massachusetts, and recently moved back to The Skating Club of Boston.

"It's such a great group with so much energy," Izzo said. "It makes you really motivated and excited to come in and train here. I could hear certain people who have very distinct voices when I was going out. It's nice to have that support behind you. It feels like a warm hug before you go."

Sierra Venetta finished in fourth place in both segments of the competition and overall, with a total score of 177.40, a personal best. She choreographed her short program to music from *The Personal History of David Copperfield*, in collaboration with choreographer Ilona Melnichenko.

Venetta said she was delighted to have an international assignment this season.

"It's definitely something I had as a goal



Eric Sjoberg made the most of his first senior international competition, securing the bronze medal.

for this season, to have one or two, or maybe more, so it's exciting," she said. "I feel like I've been training better than ever and it's exciting to get opportunities that allow me to show that."

Paige Rydberg finished fifth with 154.03 points, and Maxine Bautista was in seventh with 138.08. Russia's Alexandra Trusova won the event, posting a score of 216.80, and Yeonjeong Park, of South Korea, claimed the silver with 212.40.

The Haydenettes exhibited their 2021–22 short program to a cover of "Sweet Dreams" by Dave Stewart and his Rock Fabulous Orchestra.





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A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Novices, juniors put their best skate forward in Norwood

BY MARISSA PEDERSON
AND JONATHAN MILLS

The Skating Club of Boston welcomed 91 novice and junior skaters to the 2021 U.S. Challenge Skate, held in conjunction with the U.S. International Figure Skating Classic, Sept. 15–19, at its new facility in Norwood, Massachusetts. Competitors in ladies, men's and ice dance divisions performed in front of an international judging panel and attended clinics to help them prepare for the U.S. qualifying season.

Novice skaters had an especially unique week, many of them skating in front of international judges for the first time. The new experience initially came with some extra nerves, but ultimately helped each athlete evaluate their skating skills from a new perspective. The young athletes were also inspired by watching their idols perform during the U.S. International Classic.

NOVICE

Phattaratida Kaneshinge (Broadmoor SC) secured the gold medal in the ladies event, winning in come-from-behind fashion by .12 points. The 12-year-old from Bangkok, Thailand, was in seventh place after the short program but rallied to claim the free skate. Her performance included an opening triple Lutz-triple toe loop and a triple Salchow-Euler-double flip.

"This competition has been fun," Kaneshinge said. "I got to learn new things and meet new people. I made new friends who hopefully I'll see again in my skating career. I'm going to take away how important it is to have good sportsmanship and being nice to my competitors by doing simple things like wishing them luck."

Joined in Norwood by coach Damon Allen, Kaneshinge posted personal bests for her free skate (100.38) and total score (145.34).

"We knew we were only two points from third place [after the short program]," Allen said. "I told her to just focus on competing the free skate the way you train it. Nothing is different here, just skate how you train."

Elyce Lin-Gracey (Pasadena FSC) earned the silver medal with a total score of 145.22. The 14-year-old from Arcadia, California, led after the short program, but experienced some nerves as the last skater to take the ice in the free skate.

"I need to prepare myself better to skate last in the competition, because that scared me a little bit today," Lin-Gracey said. "I was thinking, 'I'm the last one, I need to do my best.' Then I told myself that I have to just keep calm and know my training and do my best."



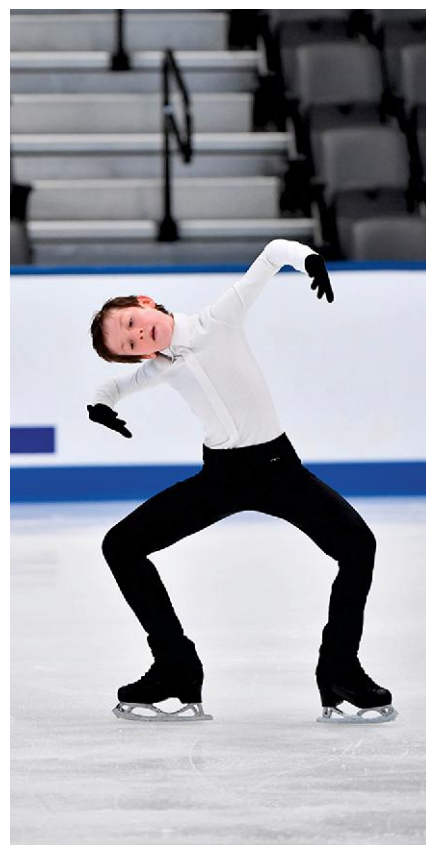
Phattaratida Kaneshinge

Lilah Gibson rounded out the medalists with 137.50 points overall. Representing Columbus FSC, the 16-year-old performed a heartfelt free skate to the song "Footprints in the Sand" that bumped her from fourth to third place, notching 90.98 points for her program.

"It's about someone you may have lost or are not in contact with anymore, but they are still there with you no matter what," Gibson said.

In the men's competition, Aleksandr Fegan (SC of New York) bested the field by nearly 10 points. The 11-year-old was the youngest competitor; he dominated throughout the week, winning the short program and free skate. Aside from being excited about his performances, Fegan took the opportunity to learn from the best at the International Classic.

"I'm excited to watch Jimmy Ma," Fegan said. "His quads were very consistent in practice. I'm also excited to see the international skaters that I have never seen in person, like Alexandra Trusova. She's amazing. She can do the quad Lutz with her arms over her head. She's so unique."



Aleksandr Fegan

The New Jersey native has big dreams. "My goal is to be the first Aleksandr ever to win the Olympic gold medal," Fegan said.

Silver medalist Patrick Blackwell (Warwick Figure Skaters) had the home ice advantage in Norwood. Training out of The Skating Club of Boston, the 13-year-old won the crowd over with his free skate to music from *The Godfather*; it rendered 88.05 points for a total of 132.31. Blackwell has had the opportunity to watch and learn from rink mates and International Classic competitors Ma and Maxim Naumov; he has even started training some of their more difficult jumps.

"I've been working on all of my triples, especially the triple loop, which I might add into my short program at the Boston Open in two weeks," Blackwell said. "I also want to keep trying the quad Salchow. I've done it before, it's just really tricky."

Lucius Kazanecki (North Jersey FSC) earned the bronze medal with 121.08 points. The 13-year-old jumped from fifth to third place with his 83.82-point free skate.

"This competition showed that my jumps are getting better," Kazanecki said. "I had a good technical score and I still can work



Olympic champion Tenley Albright, center, welcomed Challenge Skate competitors to the Tenley Albright Performance Center in Norwood.

on my skating skills more.”

Sylvia Li (North Jersey FSC) and Rowan Le Coq (SC of New York) struck gold in ice dance with a total score of 80.03. The team out of Montclair State University Ice Arena was shocked after the free dance, notching a personal best 58.90 points to catapult from third to first place.

“During the last month we have been working hard, but this competition I was surprised that our score was 58 for the free dance,” Le Coq said. “We were both in shock.”

The 11- and 14-year-old channeled their energy into telling a story through their performance.

“We had a lot of power in the free dance today,” Le Coq said. “There were some areas where we stumbled but we kept going. The program is about a poor girl and boy. The girl wants to be a ballerina; it was her dream. So they dance together to achieve the dream together.”

Olivia Ilin and Dylan Cain (Washington FSC) collected the silver medal with 75.74 points. The duo sat first after the pattern dance but fell to fourth in the free dance after a mistake on their opening twizzles. Though disappointed, the Maryland natives took the missed opportunity as a learning experience.

“You have to be mentally prepared for anything to happen — expect the worst but hope for the best,” Cain said.

Both skaters especially enjoyed the opportunity to watch the rhythm dance at the U.S. International Classic.

“I enjoyed the Korean team [Yura Min and Daniel Eaton],” Ilin said. “I thought their music was cool and their costumes were interesting. How they skated and played with the music was cool.”

Anna Sophia O’Brien (North Jersey FSC) and Steven Wei (All Year FSC) emerged with the bronze medal. They earned 52.82



Sylvia Li and Rowan Le Coq

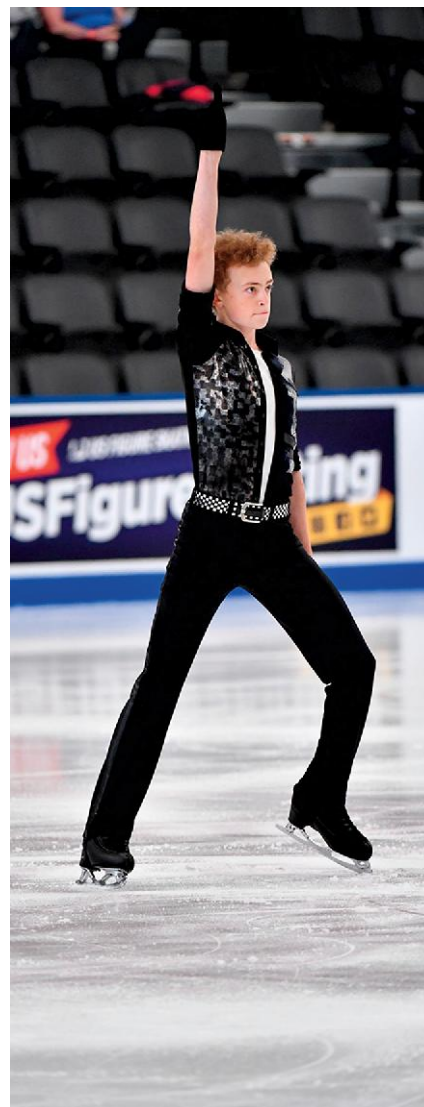
points for their free dance to music from *Aladdin* en route to a total score of 74.02.

“It was definitely nerve-racking (to be in front of an international panel),” Wei said. “I thought it was a good chance to make ourselves known.”

JUNIOR

Men’s winner Robert Yampolsky (North Jersey FSC) couldn’t have asked for more to kick off his 2021–22 campaign.

“To have international judges is something you can’t experience every day, or to be in a venue this great, or be able to compete in



Robert Yampolsky

JAY ADEFF/U.S. FIGURE SKATING



Josephine Lee

front of a crowd," Yampolsky, 17, said. "I will definitely try to move forward and will learn from what I've done today."

Yampolsky posted a score of 183.09. His free skate, set to a Havasi medley, opened with a triple Axel (under-rotated)-Euler-double flip and saw him cleanly land a total of five triple jumps.

"It's a very intense, strong and passionate program," Yampolsky said. "It's almost like a gladiator is fighting," Yampolsky said. "That's probably the overall message: a hero trying to get his freedom."

Maxim Zharkov (Dallas FSC) claimed the silver medal with 181.57 points. The 17-year-old attempted a quad toe loop to open his free skate. He learned a lot about himself over the weekend, he said.

"I need to work harder on elements in the future," Zharkov said. "I want to make sure that I get everything done right."

Philip Baker (SC of Boston), fourth after the short program, rallied to secure the bronze medal, as the 19-year-old finished with 166.11 points.

Josephine Lee (All Year FSC) won the ladies title, edging Elsa Cheng (Skokie Valley SC) 149.95-149.67. Lee, 13, finished first in the short program and fifth in the free skate.

"I definitely didn't skate my best, but I am glad I got it out there," she said. "This arena is so beautiful, and it was an honor to skate in front of these judges and all of these people."

Cheng won the free skate with 97.39 points. The 16-year-old silver medalist's free skate, set to "503" by Joshua Bell and Hans Zimmer, included seven triple jumps.

"It was good to let it all out, especially under the lights and at this big rink," Cheng



Helena Carhart and Volodymyr Horovyi

said. "It was a good experience. I know I need to work a lot harder, though."

Sarah Everhardt (Washington FSC), 13, won bronze with 148.10 points.

"I need to continue to trust myself and trust the process and know that everything is going to be OK," she said.

Ice dancers Helena Carhart and Volodymyr Horovyi (Florida Everblades FSC) beat the field by more than 13 points to win the title with 143.07 points. The 16-year-old and the 18-year-old completed two Level 4 lifts and a Level 4 combination spin in their free dance, a performance that Carhart credited to communication.

"I think we work well as a team and we communicate well before we skate," she said. "We talk about everything we want to focus on."

Siblings Elliana Peal, 14, and Ethan Peal (Scott Hamilton SC), 17, posted an overall score of 130.88 points for the silver medal. They opened their free dance with a Level 4 curve lift and closed with a Level 4 rotational lift.

"We've gone through so much, like

moving to a new state and everything, so we've been really working hard," Elliana said. "For the past two weeks, we tried to train the program so we could get stuff consistent and clean today."

Alongside his sister, Ethan said there were a lot of positive takeaways they will try to learn from.

"Footwork is one of our biggest challenges because it's really about getting into those edges in the heat of the moment," Ethan said. "We also are working on getting those lifts better."

Vanessa Pham, 17, from the SC of Houston, and Jonathan Rogers, 18, from Texas Gulf Coast FSC, claimed the bronze medal with 125.98 points.

"We made progress, but we still want and have a lot more to get out of this," Rogers said. "Really, just nailing down some of those elements in the future will be great for us."

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HAPPINESS ABOUNDS

Tufts shares emotional win with coaches via FaceTime

BY KARISSA WOIENSKI

Brooke Tufts (North Jersey FSC) decided to focus on ice dance following an injury a few years ago as a singles skater. That decision paid off with her winning the senior combined event title at the 2021 National Solo Dance Final, held Sept. 17–19 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Tufts, a recent graduate of Penn Foster High School, competed as a freestyle skater for 11 years before transitioning to ice dance. It was her second time at the Solo Dance Final; she also competed this season in U.S. Figure Skating's Excel Series.

"It was a stress fracture and I poorly decided to ignore pain," Tufts said. "With one bad fall on the ice it turned into a fracture in my spine. It was a hard decision [to leave singles skating] because I wanted to stay as competitive as I possibly could, so ice dance was the best option for me."

At the Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo, Tufts won both the rhythm dance and free dance en route to a total score of 149.60, nearly 10 points more than the silver medalist.

For the free dance, Tufts skated a captivating program to the song "The Feeling Begins" by Peter Gabriel. She earned positive grades of execution for all of her elements, including her exquisite choreographic step sequence.

"For the free dance, I wanted something different and out of the box, and Igor [Lukanin, one of her coaches with Kristin Fraser], suggested 'The Feeling Begins,' Tufts said, "I immediately fell in love with it."

The demands of the music, she said, required her to focus more on the performance, rather than the technical aspects, of the program.

"I wanted to make sure I could tell a story," Tufts said. "There are no words in that piece, so I felt telling the story through choreography and performance was important."

Her strategy paid off, as she received two 7.75s for interpretation/timing.

The win was an emotional one, she said, as both of her coaches couldn't be there but watched her perform via livestream.

"I remember getting a FaceTime call from my coach [Lukanin], running to the other rink to get a better connection, and him crying because he was so happy for me," Tufts said. "My other coach also watched me and called right away to congratulate me."

Tufts plans to continue competing while pursuing a career as a choreographer.

The event marked the conclusion to the 10th year of the Solo Dance Series, which encompassed 18 competitions across the



Senior combined event winner Brooke Tufts

country from March through August. Nearly 450 skaters competed in the Series, with 220 skaters qualifying to compete at the National Solo Dance Final.

The event was hosted by the Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association, which had 23 skaters competing in the event.

"We were grateful for the 2021 restart of the National Solo Dance Series and all of the skating clubs that hosted competitions this year," Michelle Piel, competition chair, said. "Our club truly enjoys solo dance, and hosting the Final was a great opportunity for us to welcome everyone to Kalamazoo."

Anna Lewis (Washington FSC) earned the silver medal in the senior combined event, performing her free dance to a medley of songs by Lady Gaga. The program showcased Lewis' performance talent; both her combination spin and twizzle sequence received Level 4s.

Coached primarily by Maxim Katchanov, Lewis is a junior at Oakton High School, where she also competed on the school's varsity cross-country and track teams.

Sophie Lewis (Washington FSC) joined her sister on the podium. She finished fourth in the rhythm dance and fifth in the free dance to secure the bronze medal. Sophie performed her free dance to selections from the musical "Sweet Charity;" her combination spin and midline step sequence received high grade of execution marks. Coached by Katchanov and Katrina Shalin, Sophie was competing for the first time in the Solo Dance Series.

Leah Krauskopf (University of Delaware FSC) earned the pewter medal.

INTERNATIONAL PATTERN DANCE

Skating with speed and flow, Anna Lewis won both the Rhumba and the Golden Waltz to take home gold with a score of 72.26, nearly 10 points more than the silver medalist. This is Lewis' second international pattern dance title; she won the event in 2018 as well.

In 2019, she competed in novice partnered dance, and she returned to the Solo Dance Series this year.

Though Lewis won both dances, she

KRPHOTOS PHOTOGRAPHY

2021 NATIONAL SOLO DANCE FINAL



KRPHOTOS PHOTOGRAPHY



International pattern dance bronze medalist Ashley Wu



Gold/international shadow dance bronze medalists Ayssa Stump and Rebecca Li



Gold/international shadow dance silver medalists Carlie Quesada and Jaysa Bozzuto

prefers the Rhumba.

"I have known the Rhumba since 2017 and have always loved the Latin music and deep edges in the dance," Lewis said. "I learned the Golden Waltz recently, so it was definitely more of a challenge."

Skating to "Memories" by Maroon 5 for the Rhumba and "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran for the Golden Waltz, Lewis appreciated being able to choose her own music.

"I'm so happy that all the music is now skater's choice," Lewis said. "It made it so much more enjoyable to perform."

Sophie Lewis earned the silver medal, placing third in the Rhumba and second in the Golden Waltz.

Although new to the Solo Dance Series, Sophie earned medals in all three of her events.

"At the beginning of the season, I would have never expected to get on the podium for all three events at the National Final," she said. "It was beyond any of my expectations."

Ashley Wu (All Year FSC) claimed the bronze medal. She struggled in the Golden Waltz, falling on the second pattern, but a swift recovery and strong showing in the Rhumba helped her finish on the podium.

Her Rhumba received almost entirely positive grade of execution marks, and she earned high program component scores for the Golden Waltz.

Shin Lei Case (Dallas FSC) won the pewter medal.

GOLD/INTERNATIONAL SHADOW DANCE

Skating the Quickstep, Anna and Sophie Lewis won gold by nearly three points with a score of 39.88.

"Of the three events I competed at the Final, my favorite is the Shadow Dance," Sophie said. "I like it the most because I enjoy skating with my older sister."

Said Anna, "The shadow dance was different from the other events for us because it was the event that we can just relax and have

fun."

Skating to "Waka Waka" by Shakira, the sisters received all positive grades of execution for their Quickstep and the highest program component scores in the event, including a 6.50 for skating skills/execution.

Carlie Quesada and Jaysa Bozzuto (All Year FSC/Sun Valley FSC) finished second. Quesada and Bozzuto also received all positive grades of execution for the dance.

Alyssa Stump and Rebecca Li (Desert Ice SC/Coyotes SC) captured the bronze medal. Their dance showcased their speed and edge quality; their highest program component mark was in skating skills/execution.

Faith Mlachak and Elizabeth Horwitz (SC of Cleveland Heights/Gilmour Academy FSC) won the pewter medal.

Editor's note: Gianna Intintoli and Meredith Hall were nominated as two of U.S. Figure Skating's eight Get Up ambassadors. Their stories and those of the other special honorees will appear throughout the year in SKATING magazine.

'BODY WAS ON FIRE'

Young athlete grateful for skating after overcoming rare disorder

BY ROBYN CLARKE

The beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020 forced the world to hit a curveball. Schools went virtual, restaurants closed their doors, and life as it was known came to a complete, abrupt halt.

Most of society took time to adjust to a new normal, but for 13-year-old Gianna Intintoli, the onset of a then-undiagnosed illness two months before the pandemic started had already turned her world upside down.

"It felt like my body was on fire," Intintoli said. "The whole entire time it felt like someone had just lit a match, and I was just burning all over the place."

Up until January of 2020, Intintoli was a typical teenager. She attended school and spent much of her free time on the ice as a member of The Skating Club of New York.

Intintoli first stepped into a rink at age 3 after the preschool she attended offered figure skating as an activity. She enjoyed the sensation of gliding around a rink and quickly realized that other sports did not give her the same sense of freedom.

At age 5, she transitioned to synchronized skating. The move came after her family watched synchronized skating at the rink one afternoon and thought it was something Intintoli might be interested in.

Switching disciplines, though, was not easy.

"It was definitely a little bit different, because it was a lot more practices and a lot more time on the ice," she said. "But it was really fun because I was able to be with my friends."

Little did she know how much she would come to lean on the synchronized skating community.

In January of last year, Intintoli was one of thousands of Americans to receive a flu shot. A few days after being inoculated, she developed a wide array of symptoms, indicating that something was wrong. Both her spleen and liver were enlarged, and she endured intense nerve pain that began in her legs and traveled to her head.

Eventually, it robbed her of the ability to walk and forced her to step away from skating.

"It was definitely hard," Intintoli said.



Gianna Intintoli proudly displays the most recent test that she has passed.

"Especially since we didn't know if I'd ever be able to skate again. But my friends supported me and they always made sure I was OK."

In one month, after trips to four hospitals and various doctors' appointments, Intintoli was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome. GBS is a rare neurological disorder in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks part of its peripheral nervous system, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The Centers for Disease Control reports that between 3,000 and 6,000 people are diagnosed with the disorder each year.

For Intintoli, the diagnosis brought relief. Now she could focus on her goal of learning to walk again.

The process was long, difficult and, at times, painful. Afternoon physical therapy sessions were a drastic shift from after-school skating practices. The arduous nature of her rehabilitation made the day she walked again

all the more monumental.

It was in May, four months after Intintoli and her family had first heard the acronym GBS. She was in her living room, partaking in a virtual physical therapy session. With her mom as a witness and her therapist watching via the computer, Intintoli took her first steps.

"I remember just being really concentrated and really nervous. ... Seeing that I could walk for maybe three minutes one day and then four minutes the next day and then five minutes a day after that — it was exciting for me," she said.

Intintoli did more than just learn how to walk again. A few months later, she got back out on the ice.

"[Figure skating] has definitely made me a better person," she said. "It's made me stronger [and] it's made me realize I can be grateful for more things."

‘SKATING IN MY DNA’

Hall returns to ice after 55 years away

BY ROBYN CLARKE

Meredith Hall stepped into an ice rink with confidence in 2018. Though she had not set foot on the ice in 55 years, she was certain the skill that had once been second nature would come right back to her.

“I thought, ‘Oh my gosh, here’s the ice. You know, I could do this. I’ve done this,’” she recalled.

However, the 78-year-old’s first time back on skates did not go as smoothly as she had hoped. Gone was the ability to glide effortlessly across the ice as she had in her younger days; instead, all she could do was wobble around and hope she did not lose her balance.

Perhaps skiing was to blame. Hall had spent the last years traversing the slopes, even becoming a professional ski instructor at age 62. Maybe her feet were just not used to the rocker on the skate’s blade. Whatever the reason, the surface below felt completely unfamiliar.

“It was so awkward. It was so foreign to me, until I skated two or three times,” Hall said.

She pushed through the uncertainty and eventually regained her confidence, even going on to skate at the 25th annual U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships in Salt Lake City in 2019. For Hall, tying up a pair of skates again was not a choice, but something she felt she needed to do.

“My son says I have skating in my

DNA,” she said.

By returning to the ice, Hall scribbled a storybook ending onto a script that had begun dozens of years before.

Long before that day in 2019, Hall was a little girl entranced with the intricacies of figure skating. Her father’s role as vice president and general manager of the iconic Broadmoor Hotel gave Hall access to the Broadmoor Skating Club, where she trained under Austrian coach Edi Scholdan. There, she developed friendships with many well-known skaters, including Greg Kelley and his older sister, Nathalie.

“[Greg] was just the nicest kid,” Hall said. “He really was. And he was very smart. He got excellent grades, and he wanted to be a doctor.”

In fact, Kelley’s aspiration of a career in the medical field was the subject of conversation one night in 1961 during a ride home from the ice rink. He was about to depart for Worlds in Prague, and as she dropped him off, Hall commented that she would see him after he returned.

“He said, ‘Yeah, but I have to go to school because I want to be a doctor,’” Hall said.

It was the last thing Kelley would ever say to her. He was one of 72 passengers killed when Sabena Flight 548 crashed en route to Czechoslovakia.

Hall remembers every detail of the moment she learned her friend would not

return. She was dressed in a gray sweater with a brown- and gray-striped skirt, and she was by the toaster, getting ready to head to class at Colorado College when her father walked into the room.

“He said, ‘Listen, there’s been a plane crash. And it looks like it was the same flight that all of the skaters were on,’” Hall said.

Later, she and her father found out that the plane that had crashed was indeed the one carrying the figure skating team. As she tried to comprehend the news, Hall was struck by another detail: She was supposed to have made the trip with Kelley.

Coach Scholdan had invited Hall along, but her father’s discomfort with Czechoslovakia’s Communist government led her to decline the offer.

The decision saved her life. Three years later, adversity struck again.

At age 24, she was given the opportunity to skate in Europe. While she was abroad, her health took a bizarre turn. Muscle weakness left her unable to complete simple tasks like combing her hair and brushing her teeth. Nearly a year later, doctors discovered why: Hall had myasthenia gravis, an autoimmune disorder that causes antibodies to destroy communication between the brain and the body’s muscles.

A medication called mestinon eventually gave Hall her strength back, and in 2018, a neurologist at the University of Utah determined that she was in remission.

At the 2019 U.S. Adult Championships, Hall once again displayed the courage and fortitude that she exhibited during those difficult times in her life. While warming up for her event, she caught an edge and fell face first onto the ice, cutting her lip wide open.

Undeterred, she jumped up and skated to the rink boards, where a volunteer gave her a tissue to stop the bleeding. Moments later, she performed a moving program to music by Andrea Bocelli.

“It has made me so happy that I’ve been physically able to start again after 55 years,” Hall said. “They always say I’m really blessed, but I am really so thankful. I stood out there and I thought, ‘My gosh, this is actually happening.’ It was very exciting for me.”



Meredith Hall competes at the 2019 U.S. Adult Championships in Salt Lake City.

'ENERGY' AND 'JOY'

Excitement abounds in anticipation of competitive season

COMPILED BY KYLEIGH GAFF

Synchronized skating is back!

After not being able to compete for the last year and half because of the pandemic, athletes, coaches and officials are preparing for the synchronized skating competition season. Teams have been creative with their workouts and preparation given the various health restrictions in place around the country.

In this installment of In synchrony, members of the 2021–22 Synchronized Development and Technical Committee and DREAM Program share what they are most excited to experience this season.

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



Alyssa Schmuecker

The camaraderie and energy in the arena, as well as team traditions such as singing the fight song.

Alyssa Schmuecker, Miami varsity collegiate team member and athlete representative on the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee



Lois Long

The athletes; we don't have a competition without them and I've missed their energy and smiling faces.

Lois Long, ISU technical committee member for synchronized skating, member of the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee, ISU-level referee and judge



Summer Nagy

To see my official and coach friends who I haven't seen in person since before the pandemic and to feel the energy of live skating again.

Summer Nagy, member on the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee, national technical specialist



Jenny Cherry, center, and the Starlights junior team at 2020 Britannia Cup in Nottingham, England.

The moment right before the team takes the ice to compete — those 30 seconds in which the team and coaches enter their own bubble with whatever pre-competition ritual they have established. There is so much hope and excitement in that small moment, which is something we've all been missing over the last year."

Jenny Cherry, assistant director of the Starlights in Chicago and coaching member on the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee



Ashley Mulhern

As a coach I am lucky to be able to see the hard work and joy of skating from my athletes each and every practice. But what I am most excited for this competition season is to once again be able to see skaters from across the country come together with that same love of synchronized skating and desire to drive the sport forward by cheering each other on and raising the bar on the ice — we are truly all stronger together.

Ashley Mulhern, coaching member of the Skyliners organization and coaching member on the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee



Lauren O'Toole

To see everyone come together to celebrate the sport of synchronized skating. What I would love to see at all competitions is all teams and organizations supporting and cheering for each other. We are one synchronized skating family. After the year we have experienced, supporting each other, even our competitors, is going to be more important than ever before.

Lauren O'Toole, chair, Synchronized Skating Development and Technical Committee, national technical controller, technical specialist and judge



Olivia Marshall

To hear and see cheering fans in the stands at competitions again.

Olivia Marshall, athlete member on the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee



Amanda Pearson

Seeing my skaters do what they love. There's something special about the energy and camaraderie felt at competitions. I can't wait to watch my skaters' faces light up as they take the ice to perform and witness the bonds they form as they experience the highs and lows of competition together as a team. Also, seeing all my synchro friends. As coaches, I think we all get excited to see our coach, skater, official and U.S. Figure Skating friends from all over the country when we go to competitions. I sure missed seeing everyone last season and I'm excited to be reunited.

Amanda Pearson, director of the Windjammers in Minnesota, coaching member on the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee

To be on the officials' stand and feel the chilled air "whoosh" of the team as they skate past us.

Laura Days, chair of the Synchronized Competitions Subcommittee and member of the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee, national synchronized referee and judge, and sectional technical controller



Leatrice Bulls

I am looking forward to stepping onto the ice at competitions and experiencing that feeling of overwhelming excitement and determination that runs through your body stemming from the adrenaline, energy of teammates and cheering from the synchro community.

Leatrice Bulls, first year DREAM skater, member of the Skyliners senior team



Ellie Lim and the 2019-20 Teams Elite junior team at the 2020 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships

Sharing those special moments with my teammates when we knew we left everything on the ice.

Ellie Lim is a first year DREAM skater and member of the Teams Elite junior team.



Brittney Rivelli, second from left, with members of the 2020 DREAM Program

For the synchronized skating community to be back together and to continue to push the boundaries of our sport.

Brittney Rivelli is a fifth year DREAM skater and co-captain of the DREAM Program and member of the Miami University senior varsity team



Felicia Haining-Miller, third from left, with members of the 2020 Coach Development Program

To see the joy on our athletes' faces when they get to experience the magic of performing with their teammates again, and to see wonderful friends live and in person.

Felicia Haining-Miller, vice chair of the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee (development), national technical specialist



Melissa Christensen, second from right, with members of the technical panel at the 2020 Eastern Synchronized Sectional Championships.

To experience and observe the camaraderie and teamwork that is present in all aspects of synchro.

Melissa Christensen is a member on the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee, sectional technical specialist and judge.

PRESERVING A LEGACY

Ice dance champion shares her coach's wisdom so the teachings won't be lost

BY LOIS ELFMAN

Even as U.S. ice dance champion and three-time World medalist Lorna Dyer pursued a career as a science teacher, science specialist and grant writer, she remained connected to skating by coaching for 27 summers in Sun Valley, Idaho, and a bit in her hometown of Seattle. In 1980, she wrote the book *Ice Dancing Illustrated* so a piece of skating history would be preserved.

Dyer and her partner, the late John Carrell, were coached by Jean Westwood, with whom Dyer remains in touch. Westwood and the late Lawrence Demmy won four World titles for Great Britain. They had been coached by the legendary Gladys Hogg, whose students also included Jennifer and John Nicks, John Curry, Robin Cousins, Peter Burrows, Elizabeth and Peter Cain and Diane Towler and Bernard Ford.

"I wrote a book only because I knew the information I was getting was golden," Dyer said. "Gladys Hogg trained my coach and my coach trained me; I didn't want that information lost."

"People don't really read books to learn how to skate, but I thought, I'm going to put this information down, because I was such a fan of the information."

Dyer was raised in Seattle by parents who belonged to a dance group.

"Every month they went to a formal dance," she said. "They both loved dance and my dad danced with me from the time I was a tot."

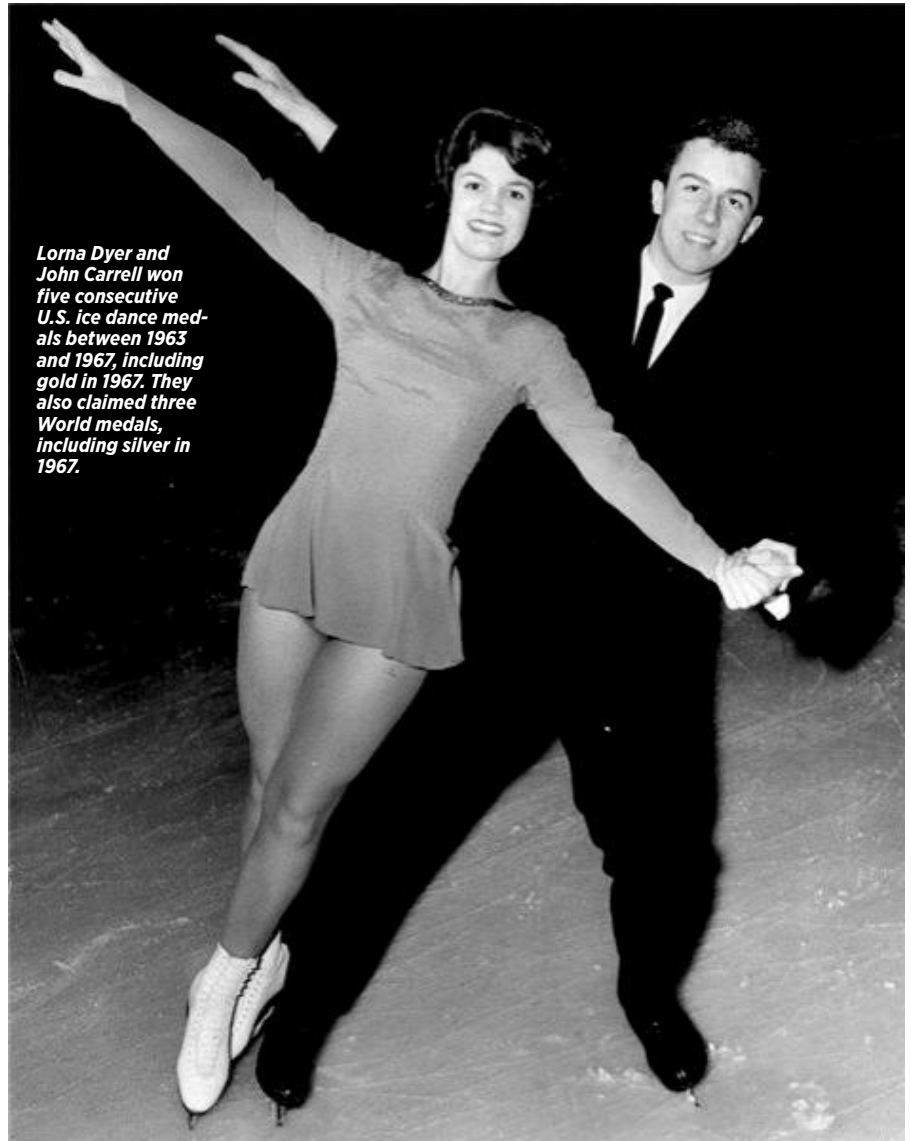
Skating began when she went to a rink with her Brownie troop at age 7.

"It wasn't that I was spectacularly talented and wanted to do it, but a skating coach got a hold of my mother, and she was a really good salesperson," Dyer said. "She started me."

Dyer progressed through her sixth test in singles, doing a bit of ice dance as well, and eventually found her way to Westwood, the first World champion in ice dance. Westwood had relocated from her native Great Britain to Canada. At age 15, Dyer began training with Westwood and focused on ice dance. After a partnership with King Cole, she teamed up with Carrell. They trained with Westwood, whom Dyer calls a genius, and moved with her to the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"We put a lot of effort in," Dyer said. "It was competitive. People wanted to win."

On the U.S. World team for five years



Lorna Dyer and John Carrell won five consecutive U.S. ice dance medals between 1963 and 1967, including gold in 1967. They also claimed three World medals, including silver in 1967.

(1963–67), Dyer and Carrell traveled the world with people like Peggy Fleming and pairs skaters Cindy and Ron Kauffman (also from Seattle). She said they all got along famously.

"Japan took the U.S. champion team on a tour in the fall of 1967," Dyer said. "That's a fond memory. We had camaraderie."

Dyer dated Czech pairs skater Pavel Roman and Russian pairs skater Aleksandr Gorelik but connecting with Eastern Europeans in the 1960s was not easy. She said Gorelik was under constant surveillance,

and someone would intervene whenever they tried to spend time together.

While still competing, Dyer attended the University of Washington, because education was a priority for her. It was on the quarter system, so she could attend school in the fall, spring and summer, and take off the winter quarter for skating season. She even turned down a chance to skate professionally to finish school, graduating in 1968. After a brief first marriage, she returned to Washington to earn a master's degree and then launched her career as a teacher.

Science felt natural to her and she



Dyer, 18, and Carrell, 16, star in the annual Seattle Figure Skating Club Ice Parade, which raised money for charity around Christmas each year.

readily understood concepts. Dyer spent 31 years in public education and was named Washington State Outstanding Biology Teacher of the Year before segueing into being a science specialist for the state of Washington. The state had nine educational service districts (ESDs), and when new ideas arose, people at the ESDs were trained, and they, in turn, did staff development at schools.

"I learned things like cooperative learning and ideas that came out about how to improve education," she said. "Then I was a grant writer."

As a coach during the school year, Dyer mostly trained recreational skaters or people who wanted to pass their tests, but not compete seriously. There were a few skaters who wanted to compete, but she turned the most talented skaters over to fellow Westwood student Ford, who was coaching in Seattle in the 1990s.

After she retired in 2000, Dyer and husband Jerry Watts moved to Santa Fe,

Dyer and husband Jerry Watts attend a ball for the newly elected governor of New Mexico, Michelle Lujan Grisham.



New Mexico. While she loved Seattle, she craved more sunshine when she was no longer busy with work every day. The sun is almost always shining in Santa Fe, and the high altitude keeps it from getting too hot in the summer. The city's history is long and detailed, and she appreciates the Native American architecture.

Dyer and Watts have been married for 40 years. He is the owner of an engineering company that designs fire suppression systems for buildings. Her husband still works, so Dyer sometimes travels with friends, this October visiting Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia.

"My days are wonderful," she said. "I started playing tennis here. The pandemic didn't affect me a lot because I play tennis outside and at a distance. I belong to a hiking group. ... New Mexico is really good about people wearing masks inside."

Watts played football for the University of Washington, from which Dyer also graduated, so they visit Seattle almost every year for homecoming.

When they first moved to Santa Fe, she did some grant writing for a Native American school and she also taught the students skating. Then she taught some private lessons, but eventually decided to channel her energies in other directions.

"I do have some new skates," Dyer said. "Right now, you still have to skate with a mask on, and that really is not fun. I might eventually go back for exercise, but not to work, just for fun."

She thinks contemporary ice dancing

is beautiful, laughing as she reflects on the intense rules she and Carrell had to follow.

"The first year they allowed lifts, 1967, we did them," said Dyer, of the year they finished second at the World Championships and won gold at the North American Championships. "Thanks to loosening the rules, things are a lot more creative now. You have a lot more ability to experiment with unusual kinds of things. I think it's beautiful, but I do wish they had one compulsory."

Ice dancing was not included in the Olympics when Dyer and Carrell competed (it didn't become an Olympic sport until 1976), so they never had the chance to go for the gold. Being in the Olympics changed ice dancing, and it has evolved significantly over the years. She said Meryl Davis and Charlie White's victory meant a lot in helping the discipline gain more respect.

"More recognition of the creativity, the talent, the athleticism and the beauty of it," Dyer said. "I think it's more appreciated."

Sadly, Carrell, who became a professional ballet dancer with the National Ballet of Canada, died in 1989. Before the pandemic, Dyer tried to visit Westwood in Canada every year. She occasionally connects with fellow skaters. The last time she saw everyone was when U.S. Figure Skating brought former skaters to Colorado Springs in 1996 for the association's 75th anniversary. She was among the contingent that left handprints in cement.

"I went off into a different world," she said. "It's sad to see so many people gone."

Dyer takes a cooking class in 2019 in Morocco.



THE DRIVE TO SUCCEED

Commuting adult skaters display remarkable dedication and passion

BY AVIVA M. CANTOR

Contrary to what SKATING magazine readers may think, figure skating is a niche sport. While many skaters lack access to year-round ice due to summer rink closures, there are a select few who lack access to local ice at all times. Meet five adult skaters who face the commute, showing us that quitting is not an option.

NO LOCAL ICE? NO PROBLEM

At the 2021 U.S. Adult Championships, Jennifer Hand (Georgia FSC) was one of 34 competitors in the championship adult silver ladies division, the largest adult championships event in history. With a nearly flawless performance, Hand earned a pewter medal. The Grovetown, Georgia-based skater lives an hour and a half from the nearest rink, in Irmo, South Carolina, and two hours from the next-closest rink, in Duluth, Georgia.

"I try and skate at least once a week," Hand said. "Usually it's on the weekends in Duluth. Sometimes Irmo during the week if I can make the time work."

More than six years ago, Hand's local rink in Augusta, Georgia, closed. She has commuted ever since.

"I really try and take advantage of every minute," Hand said. "I balance quality over quantity. It's frustrating at times, but like anything, you have to adapt to what you have and make the most of it."

Jose Hinojos (Southern Arizona FSC)

Jennifer Hand



tells a similar story. The skater based in Tucson, Arizona, drives more than two hours year-round to get to the nearest rink, in Gilbert, Arizona. He has done this commute nearly every Friday since his local rink closed 14 years ago.

"I warm up, put skates on, do a five-minute warmup and run a program as if it were a competition. I think that helps for actual competitions," Hinojos said. He rarely signs up for practice ice when he competes.

"Many of my competitors have more access to ice than I do," Hinojos said. "I only skate once a week, and not every week at times, so I try to keep my same routine."

MAKING IT WORK

Not living near a rink can also result in a lack of skating-related resources. Based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Laura Russinsky (FSC of Louisiana) drives more than an hour to get to Planet Ice in Lafayette, Louisiana. It is the only year-round rink in the entire state. For skate sharpenings or an in-person test session, she drives four hours to Houston.

Her advice?

"Plan ahead. If you know you're going to put in the effort to drive all the way to the rink, know what you're going to work on," Russinsky said. "I made myself a practice binder. If I finish getting through one section, there's always something else I can move on to for the remainder of my session."

The pairs and dance team of Morgan Perrine and Dave Sweeney (Charleston FSC) face a comparable commute, driving more than an hour, three to six days a week, from their home in Ravenswood, West Virginia, to the rink in Charleston, West Virginia, which is the only year-round rink in the state.

"We have always been commuters. The only other rink in our state is three hours away," Perrine said. "Most of the time, our drive consists of setting goals for what we are going to work on for the day and coming up with a plan. Some trips, however, involve just relaxing and playing games, such as counting odd things on cars along the way."

STAYING MOTIVATED

Different skaters take unique approaches to remaining alert and entertained while driving on long trips.

"It's a long and boring drive for sure," Hinojos said. "I like to listen to Britney Spears, but I also listen to my program music and do run-throughs in my head."

Hand swears by "lots of car karaoke" to pass the time.

"Recently I've started listening to some podcasts here and there, but mainly, it's lots of singing," Hand said.

Russinsky said, "I listen to news podcasts. If I'm up to date on those, I have a playlist on Spotify of music I want to skate to. I've created a good number of programs on the drive."

And for the ride home, it helps to have something to look forward to, like dessert.

"Our commute home usually starts with



Morgan Perrine and Dave Sweeney

a ritual stop at the gas station for a rewarding frozen treat, like a small ice cream cone," Sweeney said.

Regardless of the distance they drive, commuting skaters agree that the time they put into the trip is worth it, as the sport gives so much back to them.

"The skating lifestyle is a wild one," Hand said. "It's full of hard work, sacrifice and commitment. A long commute just adds an element to that. We love what we do. I clearly love it enough to spend hours in the car just for a little skating time, and I'm glad that I can do so."

Jose Hinojos



HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RALLIES CLUB BEHIND VIRTUAL EVENT

The Central Virginia Skating Club (CVSC) has a history of sponsoring skating exhibitions to raise funds for community organizations. When plans for a 2020 Heroes On Ice (HOI) exhibition were put on hold due to the pandemic, CVSC member and HOI chair Shelby Warren was not deterred.

She redesigned the show, helping to turn it from an in-person show to a virtual event, raising more than \$10,000 for Virginia Special Olympics, Area 6.

The virtual event was held in memory of Stephanie Floyd, a former CVSC member and local volunteer, who passed away in January 2020. Floyd spent many years organizing the Winter Special Olympics for the local area. Without Floyd's determination and leadership, skating would not have become an important sports activity for many children and adults in the Richmond metro area.

Warren redesigned the HOI event as her senior capstone project at James River High School, Midlothian, Virginia. She had served on planning committees for previous CVSC fundraising exhibitions and proposed the virtual redesign in the summer of 2020 when local rinks were able to open at a limited capacity.

Participating skaters and their friends and families solicited corporate sponsorships for the show, encouraged direct donations, volunteered at the taping sessions, advertised through social media and sold tickets. Tickets were available electronically, and direct donations to Special Olympics were collected through an event-specific page on the



Shelby Warren coordinated and produced the Heroes On Ice exhibition.

Special Olympics website.

Skaters could submit prerecorded programs or register for a taping session arranged by CVSC in partnership with the Richmond Ice Zone (RIZ). RIZ donated the ice time for taping. A local university donated photography equipment, and CVSC members assisted Warren in the recording of skating programs.

Warren produced the video, which included a memorial of Floyd, the singing of the national anthem by CVSC member Autumn Papczynski, and introductions for each program. Recognition of all the sponsors and volunteers scrolled at the end of

the video.

The show premiered on Feb. 13, 2021, and was available for unlimited viewing through Feb. 27. A total of 40 participants skated more than 20 performances. Performers included the national 2018 Theatre On Ice intermediate silver medalists, James River Ice Theatre, other accomplished skaters from the Richmond metro area, one team from Chula Vista, California, and three athletes from Special Olympics.

A local TV station included the event in its nightly coverage.

TRANSITION TO SKATESAFE REBRAND UNDERWAY

BY U.S. FIGURE SKATING SKATESAFE

U.S. Figure Skating continues to educate members about the rebrand of its SafeSport Program to the U.S. Figure Skating SkateSafe Program. While the program's name has changed, its mission to promote a safe and healthy environment for all members and volunteers of U.S. Figure Skating has not.

The purpose of the rebrand is to prioritize consistency and clarity for both U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe Program and the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

The U.S. Center for SafeSport is an independent nonprofit charged by Congress with responding to and preventing abuse and misconduct within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. The Center has the exclusive jurisdiction to investigate and resolve allegations of sexual misconduct within the Movement, which includes those within U.S. Figure Skating.

The U.S. Center for SafeSport will continue to receive and respond to allegations within the sport that are sexual in nature. In addition, the Center will continue administering the online SafeSport™ training that many members of U.S.

Figure Skating are required to complete annually. While the training is offered through U.S. Figure Skating's Members Only portal, it is created and maintained by the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Therefore, the training name will remain the same.

U.S. Figure Skating's SkateSafe Program will continue to publish policies that apply to all participants within the organization and will continue to receive and respond to allegations of misconduct and abuse within the sport.

The U.S. Center for SafeSport also creates training courses and resources for parents and athletes of all ages. Parents are encouraged to use the free training materials made available at www.uscenterforsafesport.org by the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Parents will find age-appropriate minor athlete training courses and online parent toolkits broken down by athlete age groups.

All members are encouraged to visit www.usfigureskating.org/skatesafe to learn more about the program, its policies and the reporting requirements of members.

As a reminder, clubs have until Dec. 1, 2021, to switch over to the new SkateSafe name. This will include required updates to all bylaws, policies, club websites, email addresses with the



term *SafeSport* in them and other documents that reference the term *SafeSport*.

In Members Only, club leaders can find resources to assist with these changes, such as a checklist for the key areas that will need to be updated, posters to promote the new program name at the club level and an email template that clubs may utilize to communicate the change to their members.

U.S. Figure Skating will randomly check in with various clubs to gauge their progress and offer assistance with the rebrand as needed.

To view the rebranded SkateSafe materials, visit www.usfigureskating.org/skatesafe. You may also reach out to the program using its new email address, skatesafe@usfigureskating.org.

COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION KEYS TO SUCCESS FOR LEARN TO SKATE USA'S LARGEST PROGRAMS

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The Suburban Skating School in Michigan overcame many obstacles to remain the largest Learn to Skate USA program in the country.

BY TAYLOR DEAN

The last year posed new and unexpected challenges for everyone and Learn to Skate USA® programs were no exception. Directors suddenly found themselves brainstorming ideas to keep skaters engaged while rinks remained closed for weeks. They had to use their creativity to find new ways to communicate and teach ice skating while maintaining a safe environment.

For Suburban Skating School, the collaboration and sharing of ideas between the programs' six skating directors were what helped keep skaters coming back for more and helped the program retain its title as the largest Learn to Skate USA® program in the country.

"We had nowhere near what we consider a normal season in terms of our offerings," corporate skating director Daniel Palmeri said. "From July to the end of September, we didn't offer anything, so we had to get creative."

Instead of holding normal on-ice classes, Palmeri said Suburban Skating School in Rochester, Michigan, ran a "Field Day Series," an entirely off-ice program located in the rink parking lot.

"We promoted it as a way to get

ready for your return to the ice," Palmeri said. "It was a way for us to get engaged with our members again. We enjoyed it so much that we are going to make it part of our regular summer programming moving forward."

Suburban Skating School was open for only a few weeks before the rinks had to pause programming. From mid-November to mid-January, which Palmeri said is their busiest season, the rinks remained closed.

"One of the most difficult challenges was staying engaged with the skaters during the extended shutdown because we didn't know exactly when we could return to the ice," Suburban Ice Macomb Skating Director Brenda Willhite said. "As directors we brainstormed, and together, we were able to come up with fun yet effective ways to keep our customer base informed via email blasts, social media and Zoom."

Despite the closures, Palmeri and the other five directors at South Suburban Skating School remained vigilant. The group met regularly to bounce ideas off of each other and discuss ways to keep skaters safe when the rinks reopened.

"Through our collaboration, we're able to share ideas and offer new ways of problem-solving through our unique experiences in the sport and in our work," Novi Ice

Arena Skating Director Danielle Gamelin said. "When you're working with such a dedicated team, you're never stagnant. We're constantly pushing ourselves and each other to better the Suburban Skating School."

Diana Peraino, the skating director at Royal Oak John Lindell Memorial Arena, echoed the same sentiments and how their teamwork helped the community feel safe coming back to the ice.

"I knew that every family who walked in our doors had a real commitment to skating," Peraino said. "That knowledge made us a united team with the goal of keeping the arena open and classes in session."

Snoqualmie Skating Academy Skating Director Tina McPherson and her staff also relied on community support while opening a brand-new facility in the middle of a pandemic. They used out-of-the-box promotional ideas and went door-to-door in the small town of Snoqualmie, Washington. The support they garnered from members of the community helped them register more than 900 Learn to Skate USA® members for the 2020–21 season, making Snoqualmie Skating Academy the largest new Learn to Skate USA® program in the country.

Before the rink's official opening on Sept. 16, 2020, McPherson put together

what she calls the “Princess Posse.” She enlisted her assistant and Learn to Skate coordinator, Heather Van Hulle, as well as other skaters, to dress up as princesses.

“We hit the pavement,” McPherson said. “We walked around with a huge banner, wearing our ice skates and walked the streets of Snoqualmie. That was our first initiative, and we were extremely successful.

“We weren’t able to do traditional marketing prior to opening because of COVID. We didn’t know what was going to happen, so we waited until the last possible moment.”

The group did several “Princess Posse” walks to hand out flyers and even stood outside a farmer’s market in Issaquah, Washington. McPherson credits that unique marketing push for their success upon opening in September with more than 200 initial members.

Since then, Snoqualmie’s Learn to Skate USA® program has exploded, and the facility

offers numerous unique and engaging programming options, including an adult coffee club, a stroller skate and a storytime skate.

The storytime skate is Snoqualmie’s version of a “mommy and me” tot class.

“Skaters participate with their guardians for 30 minutes of instruction and 15 minutes of practice,” Van Hulle said. “The class is followed by a story read by the instructor. We serve hot cocoa and provide dress-up accessories for the kids.”

In addition to the unique programming, McPherson credited her coaching staff’s passion for grassroots skating for making Snoqualmie unique and strong from the start. She and Van Hulle have enjoyed seeing the kids who started with them upon opening progress through the levels.

“Starting from scratch with this future generation of skaters and what will be our future skating club,” Van Hulle said. “It’s been a fresh and rewarding experience.”



Snoqualmie skaters dressed up as princesses and paraded around town to promote their brand-new Learn to Skate® program in a brand-new facility in Snoqualmie, Washington.

LEARN TO SKATE USA 2020-21 MEMBERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following skating programs and their directors for registering 300 or more members, contributing to another great skating season for Learn to Skate USA in 2020-21.

2,000 OR MORE MEMBERS

Suburban Skating School — Daniel Palmeri
The Rinx Total Skating Program —
Yesenia Naranjo-Gilroy

1,000 OR MORE MEMBERS

Scott Hamilton Skating Academy —
Paula Kaye Trujillo
Ice Den Scottsdale —
Dawn Piepenbrink-McCosh
The Skating Club of Boston Skating Academy —
Theresa DeGiacomo
Chaparral Ice Learn to Skate — Kathey Goeke

900 OR MORE

Snoqualmie Skating Academy —
Christina McPherson

700 OR MORE

MedStar Capitals Iceplex —
Lori Cervinka-McHugh
Atlanta Center Ice Skating Academy —
Kelly Belin
The Skating School at Hatfield Ice —
Megan Otto

600 OR MORE

World Ice Arena Learn to Skate —
Heather Marchione
Palm Beach SkateZone — Audra Leech
Ice Den Chandler — Tara Patterson
Extreme Ice Center Skating School —
Jennifer Gwyn

Twin Rinks Skating School —
Gabrielle Valiquette
Newbridge Arena — Susan Orth
Sky Rink Skating School —
Stephanie Hernandez
Kansas City Ice Center Skate School —
Kay Olive
AZ Ice Gilbert — Holly Harrington
The Skate School At Fox Valley Ice Arena —
Rockne Brubaker
Apex Parks and Recreation — Kaitlyn Hamlin

500 OR MORE

Florida Everblades FSC – Basic Skills —
Kandis Hawkins
Skating School at the Pettit — Lily Miller
Vegas Golden Knights Skating Academy —
Carolyn Mortenson
Panthers Skating Academy — Martin Forrest
North Shore SC — Suzi Sweezey
Maple Grove Skating School — Mandy Pirich
Peaks Ice Arena — Alexandra Gerday

400 OR MORE

Long Island Skating Academy —
Valerie Murray
Ice Land Skating Center Learn-to-Skate —
Jennifer Schaffener
All Seasons Skate School — Vearle Klinger
Chiller Skating School — Denise Hughes
Essex County South Mountain Arena —
Anna Serpa
Detroit Skating Club — Rachel Bauld-Lee
First Coast Skating Academy —
Tammy Pennington
AZ Ice Peoria — Bridget Kaus
Ann Arbor FSC — Mary Johanson
Staten Island Skating Pavilion — Sarah Tirro

Ashburn Ice House — Lori Cervinka-McHugh
Empower Hockey — Kristine Johnson
Gate City Learn To Skate — Lisa Langley
The Edge Skating School — Kimberly Hines
Ice Forum Skating Academy —
Zynthia Jastremski
Garden Sports Academy — Gregory Maddalone

300 OR MORE

Lakeville Learn To Skate — Tonyea Patterson
Braemar Skate School — Kathleen Gazich
Harmony House Skating School —
Heather Olson
Madhatters Skating Academy — Ale Schaich
Louisville Skating Academy (LTS) —
Sarah Neal
Union Sport Arena Learn To Skate —
Martin Anderson
City Ice Pavilion — Sarah France
RMU Island Sports Center Skating Academy —
Elizabeth Sutton
Eagan Skate School — Katt Parsons
Centene Community Ice Center —
David Rapp
SkateNation Plus Skating Stars — Lea Rizer
Robert Crown Skating School — Vicki Revere
Learn to Skate Reno Ice — Joanie Malarchuk
Bismarck FSC — Emily Zahn
Breslow Skate School — Nance Harris
Protec Skating Academy — Eleanor Reiss
Patriot Ice Center — Elizabeth Hollett Shackett
Rochester FSC — Kari Sackett
The Garden Skating Academy —
Anthony Glowacki
Fuel Tank at Fishers Skating School —
Barbara Laughner
Revolution Ice Gardens —
Alexandra Pannepacker



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Gail Kendall	Joseph Velasco
Alan Lessic	Wendy Wagner
Dan Lew	Youxin Wang
Bernice Lim	Shari Washburn
Barbara Loczi	Michelle Watson
Jodie Maier	Amy Wiers
Lauren McCreery	

LOMBARDIA TROPHY**CHALLENGER SERIES****SEPT. 9-12, 2021, BERGAMO, ITALY**
Women**Pl., Name, Country, TS, SP, TS**

1. **Alysa Liu, USA, 219.24, 1, 1**
2. Ekaterina Kurakova, POL, 187.65, 3, 2
3. **Audrey Shin, USA, 172.46, 5, 4**
4. Alexia Paganini, SUI, 171.48, 2, 5
5. Lara Naki Gumann, ITA, 166.98, 18, 3

(31 women competed)**Men****Pl., Name, Country, TS, SP, TS**

1. Daniel Grassl, ITA, 247.80, 5, 1
2. Adam Siao Him FA, FRA, 237.39, 2, 3
3. Morsi Kvitelashvili, GEO, 236.18, 4, 2
4. Vladimir Litvintsev, AZE, 218.80, 1, 5
5. **Tomoki Hiwatashi, USA, 213.11, 9, 4**

WD Yaroslav Paniot, USA**(23 men competed)****Pairs****Pl., Name, Country, TS, SP, TS**

1. Nicole Della Monica/Matteo Guarise, ITA, 188.10, 1, 2

(no U.S. teams competed in 10-team field)**Ice dance****Pl., Name, Country, TS, SP, TS**

1. Charlene Guignard/Marco Fabbri, ITA, 205.36, 1, 1
2. Laurence Fournier Beaudry/ Nikolaj Sorensen, CAN, 185.26, 2, 2
3. Sara Hurtado/Kirill Khaliavin, ESP, 180.98, 3, 3
4. **Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko, USA, 172.78, 4, 6**
5. Natalie Taschlerova/Filip Taschler, CZE, 172.74, 5, 4
13. **Molly Cesanek/Yehor Yehorov, USA, 151.76, 14, 8**

(20 teams competed)**U.S. official:** Sam Auxier**JGP SLOVAKIA****SEPT. 1-4, 2021, KOSICE****Women****Pl., Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Veronika Zhilina, RUS, 216.92, 2, 1
2. Sofia Muravieva, RUS, 208.25, 1, 2
3. Adeliia Petrosian, RUS, 201.21, 3, 3
4. Mariia Zakharova, RUS, 190.33, 4, 5
5. Chaeveon Kim, KOR, 188.46, 5, 4
6. **Ava Marie Ziegler, USA, 176.29, 6, 6**
7. **Mia Kalin, USA, 156.23, 10, 7**

(27 women competed)**Men****Pl., Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Kirill Sarnovskiy, RUS, 215.96, 3, 1
2. Ilya Yablokov, RUS, 207.39, 2, 2
3. **William Annis, USA, 204.60, 1, 4**
4. Corey Circelli, CAN, 191.13, 8, 3
5. Jaekeun Lee, KOR, 188.20, 5, 6

(23 men competed)**Pairs****Pl., Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Anastasia Mukhortova/Dmitry Evgenyev, RUS, 171.99, 1, 1

(No U.S. teams competed in 11-team field)**Ice dance****Pl., Name, Country, TS, RD, FD**

1. Natalie D'Alessandro/Bruce Waddell, CAN, 163.04, 2, 1

(No U.S. teams competed in 15-team field)**U.S. officials:** Stefanie Mathewson, Hal Marron**2021 JOHN NICKS PAIRS****CHALLENGE****SEPT. 9-10, 2021, EAST, WEST NEW YORK****Senior****Pl., Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Alexa Knierim/Brandon Frazier, USA, 212.55, 1, 1
2. Jessica Calalang/Brian Johnson, USA, 196.69, 2, 2
3. Audrey Lu/Misha Mitrofanov, USA, 195.20, 4, 3
4. Chelsea Liu/Danny O'Shea, 177.45, 3, 5

5. Alina Pepeeleva/Roman Pleshkov, RUS, 174.62, 5, 4
6. Emily Chan/Spencer Howe, USA, 170.08, 6, 6
7. Hailey Kops/Evgeni Krasnopolski, ISR, 165.85, 8, 7
8. Katie McBeath/Nathan Bartholomay, USA, 161.69, 7, 8
9. Greta Crafoord/John Crafoord, SWE, 148.59, 10, 9
10. Kate Finster/Matej Silecky, USA, 130.47, 9, 10
11. Sarah Burden/Matthew Rounis, USA, 89.65, 11, 11

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

1. Chloe Panetta/Kieran Thrasher, CAN, 130.46, 1, 2
2. Cate Fleming/Chase Finster, USA, 130.33, 2, 1
3. Laiken Lockley/Jedidiah Isbell, USA, 119.36, 3, 3
4. Catherine Rivers/Timmy Chapman, USA, 103.88, 4, 5
5. Sylvia Wong/Skylar Weirnes, USA, 103.37, 6, 4
6. Mandy Romero/Kristofer OGren, USA, 91.79, 5, 6

U.S. officials: Wendy Enzmann, Roger Glenn, Kristina Lundgren, Troy Goldstein**JGP RUSSIA****SEPT. 15-18, 2021, KRASNOYARSK****Women****Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Sofia Akateva, RUS, 233.08, 1, 1
2. Anastasia Zinina, RUS, 206.20, 3, 3
3. Sofia Samodelkina, RUS, 202.39, 6, 2
4. Elizaveta Kulikova, RUS, 196.83, 2, 5
5. Elizaveta Berestovskaia, RUS, 196.07, 4, 4
6. **Kate Wang, USA, 170.93, 7, 6**
8. **Maryn Pierce, USA, 150.67, 10, 8**

(24 women competed)**Men****Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Gleb Lutfullin, RUS, 230.42, 2, 1
2. Egor Rukhin, RUS, 223.29, 3, 2
3. Wesley Chiu, CAN, 217.59, 4, 3
4. Artem Kovalev, RUS, 212.32, 1, 6
5. Fedor Zonov, RUS, 201.28, 8, 4
8. **Lucas Broussard, USA, 198.77, 7, 5**

(15 men competed)**Pairs****Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Ekaterina Chikmareva/Matvei Ianchenkov, RUS, 189.11, 1, 1

(No U.S. teams competed)**Ice dance****Pl. Name, Country, TS, RD, FD**

1. Irina Khavronina/Dario Cirisano, RUS, 167.31, 1, 2
2. Sofia Leonteva/Daniil Gorenkin, RUS, 165.14, 2, 1
3. **Angela Ling/Caleb Weil, USA, 160.23, 3, 5**
4. Nadiia Bashynska/Peter Beaumont, CAN, 157.39, 4, 4
5. Olga Mamchenkova/Mark Volkov, RUS, 156.35, 6, 3
8. **Leah Neset/Artem Markelov, USA, 140.54, 9, 9**

(15 teams competed)**U.S. officials:** Karen Perreault, Eric Hampton, Julia Rey**2021 U.S. INTERNATIONAL****FIGURE SKATING CLASSIC****SEPT. 15-18, 2021, NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS****Women****Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Alexandra Trusova, RUS, 216.80, 1, 1
2. Veonjeong Park, KOR, 212.40, 2, 2
3. **Gabriella Izzo, USA, 182.76, 3, 3**
4. **Sierra Venetta, USA, 177.40, 4, 4**
5. **Paige Rydberg, USA, 154.03, 5, 5**
6. Taylor Morris, ISR, 142.16, 6, 6
7. **Maxine Bautista, USA, 138.08, 7, 7**
8. Tara Prasad, IND, 129.19, 8, 8
9. Katherine Ona, ECU, 64.05, 9, 9

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

1. Michal Brezina, CZE, 238.65, 1, 1
2. **Jimmy Ma, USA, 233.58, 2, 2**

3. Eric Sjoberg, USA, 221.12, 3, 3**4. Camden Pulkkinen, USA, 208.99, 6, 4**

5. Donovan Carrillo, MEX, 208.41, 4, 7

6. Maxim Naumov, USA, 207.39, 5, 6

7. Daniel Samohin, ISR, 207.36, 7, 5

8. Mark Gorodnitsky, ISR, 186.82, 9, 8

9. Dinh Tran, USA, 176.72, 8, 10

10. Christopher Caluza, PHI, 175.64, 10, 9

Ice dance**Pl. Name, Country, TS, RD, FD****1. Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donohue, USA, 207.30, 1, 1**

2. Diana Davis/Gieb Smolkin, RUS, 190.63, 2, 2

3. Eva Pate/Logan Bye, USA, 171.70, 4, 3**4. Yura Min/Daniel Eaton, USA, 168.28, 3, 5**

5. Chantelle Kerry/Andrew Dodds, AUS, 152.96, 5, 7

6. Shira Ichilov/Laurent Abecassis, ISR, 152.53, 7, 6

7. Mariia Nosovitskaya/Mikhail Nosovitskiy, ISR, 139.26, 8, 8

8. Jenna Hertenstein/Damian Binkowski, POL, 115.04, 9, 9

U.S. officials: Peggy Graham, Anne Cammett, Robert Rosenbluth, Kathaleen Cutone, Elyse

Matsumoto, Hal Marron, Elliot Schwartz

2021 AUTUMN CLASSIC**INTERNATIONAL****SEPT. 15-18, 2021, PIERREFONDS,****QUEBEC, CANADA****Women****Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Marilena Kitromilis, CYP, 180.72, 1, 2
2. Young You, KOR, 180.25, 3, 1
3. Seoyeon Ji, KOR, 173.69, 2, 4
4. **Karen Chen, USA, 173.00, 5, 3**
5. **Starr Andrews, USA, 155.25, 4, 7**

(11 women competed)**Men****Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Conrad Orzel, CAN, 207.31, 1, 1

(3 men competed, no U.S. skaters)**Pairs****Pl. Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Riku Miura/Ryuichi, JPN, 204.06, 1, 1
2. Vanessa James/Eric Radford, CAN, 184.01, 2, 2
3. **Ashley Cain-Gribble/Timothy LeDuc, USA, 170.64, 3, 5**
4. Deanna Stellato-Dukek/Maxime Deschamps, CAN, 169.91, 4, 3
5. **Katie McBeath/Nathan Bartolomay, USA, 168.61, 5, 4**
6. Jessica Pfund/Joshua Santillan, SUI, 146.83, 6, 6
7. Lori-Ann Matte/Thierry Ferland, CAN, 140.44, 7, 7

Ice dance**Pl. Name, Country, TS, RD, FD**

1. Piper Gilles/Paul Poirier, CAN, 208.97, 1, 1
2. Olivia Smart/Adrian Diaz, ESP, 191.31, 2, 2
3. **Caroline Green/Michael Parsons, USA, 188.43, 3, 3**
4. Marjorie Lajoie/Zachary Lagha, CAN, 181.74, 4, 4
5. Carolane Soucisse/Shane Firus, CAN, 166.61, 5, 5
6. Haley Sales/Nikolas Wamsteeker, CAN, 155.89, 6, 6
7. Charlotte LaFound-Fournier/Richard Kang in Kam, NZL, 144.98, 7, 7

U.S. officials: Scott Davis, Doug Williams, Todd Bromley, Danielle Andrea Rey, Shawn Rettstatt**JGP SLOVENIA****LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA, SEPT. 22-25****WOMEN****Pl., Name, Country, TS, SP, FS**

1. Adeliia Petrosian, RUS, 210.57, 1, 2
2. Sofia Samodelkina, RUS, 205.67, 4, 1
3. **Lindsay Thorngren, USA, 193.77, 3, 3**
4. Minchae Kim, KOR, 192.48, 2, 5
5. Nina Pinzarrone, BEL, 186.10, 5, 6
7. **Ava Marie Ziegler, USA, 174.87, 6, 7**

(31 women competed)

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

1. Ilva Yablokov, RUS, 231.99, 1, 1
2. Ariet Levandi, EST, 194.35, 6, 2
3. **Matthew Nielsen, USA, 192.38, 3, 4**
4. Younghyun Cha, KOR, 191.33, 2, 6
5. Georgii Reshtenko, CZE, 190.09, 4, 3

(17 men competed)**ICE DANCE****Pl., Name, Country, TS RD, FD**

1. Vasilisa Kaganovskaia/Valeriy Angelopol, RUS, 167.22, 1, 1
 2. **Katarina Wolfkostin/Jeffrey Chen, USA, 163.25, 3, 2**
 3. Natalie D'Alessandro/Bruce Waddell, CAN, 161.79, 2, 3
 4. Eva Bernard/Tim Jochum, FRA, 142.24, 5, 4
 5. Sofia Kachushkina/Oleg Muratov, RUS, 140.27, 4, 5
- (17 teams competed)**
- U.S. officials:** Brett Drury, Denise Williamson, Eric Hampton

NATIONAL SOLO DANCE FINAL**SEPT. 15-19, KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN**

Officials: Andrejs Sitiks, Barbara Buch, Calvin Carson, Carol Wooley, Cathy Brinkman, Connie Achtenberg, David Hold, Doreen Young, Ellen Sendelbach, Hazel Wecal, JoAnn Eastman, Joel Dear, John Cole, John Millier, Katherine Conrad, Kelly Gillette, Laura Murphy, Laurie Lind, Lexi Rohner, Mary Anne McGivern, Mary-Elizabeth Wightman, Michael Meyer, Michael Ricigliano, Paul Bellantuono, Reed Hastings, Richard Kern, Scheherezade Redmond, Stephanie Zastrow, Valeri Terry, Vicki Merten, William Goen, William Suggs, William Tran

Senior combined**Pl., Name, Club, TS, RD, FD**

1. Brooke Tufts, North Jersey FSC, 149.60, 1, 1
2. Anna Lewis, Washington FSC, 140.75, 2, 2
3. Sophie Lewis, Washington FSC, 132.39, 4, 5
4. Leah Krauskopf, University of Delaware FSC, 129.90, 3, 7
5. Ashley Wu, All Year FSC, 128.04, 5, 3
6. Kiana Pan, Northern Ice SC, 126.54, 7, 4
7. Giulia Paolino, Winterhurst FSC, 122.28, 6, 8
8. Marius Driscoll, Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights, 121.97, 8, 6
9. Madelyn Jordan, Carolinas FSC, 119.86, 9, 9
10. Katelyn Mamrick, Greenville FSC, 112.75, 12, 10
11. Shin Lei Case, Dallas FSC, 111.33, 11, 11
12. Kendra Lachcik, Skokie Valley SC, 104.43, 10, 15
13. Hanna Arntsen, Scott Hamilton SC, 102.04, 13, 14
14. Alyssa Stump, Desert Ice SC Of Arizona, 99.89, 14, 12
15. Carlie Quesada, All Year FSC, 98.25, 15, 13
16. Kaitlyn Hatley, Peninsula SC, 91.09, 16, 17
17. Alexandra Ortiz, Peninsula SC, 90.32, 17, 16

Junior combined**Pl., Name, Club, TS, RD, FD**

1. Selina Wu, Kingsgate SC, 118.91, 3, 1
2. Abby Mumby, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 116.04, 1, 2
3. Chiara Tan, SC of New York, 110.88, 2, 5
4. Hannah Kim, Glacier Falls FSC, 108.88, 4, 4
5. Elizabeth Lee, Broadmoor SC, 107.71, 8, 3
6. Emma Ambler, Dallas FSC, 102.36, 5, 13
7. Athena Roberts, Panthers FSC, 101.68, 6, 10
8. Jenna Shilts, Great Lakes FSC, 100.91, 12, 6
9. Jaysa Bozzuto, Sun Valley FSC, 98.57, 9, 9
10. Ayne Park, Dallas FSC, 98.54, 10, 7
11. Karin Kaneda, Washington FSC, 98.24, 7, 14
12. Madelon Morin-Viall, Charter Oak FSC, 11, 11
13. Audrey-Kate Johnson, Atlanta FSC, 95.13, 15, 12
14. Natalie Motley, Detroit SC, 93.32, 17, 8

15. Meryl Shackett, Patriot FSC, 91.44, 16, 15
16. Amelia Brogley, Bowling Green SC, 86.80, 13, 16
17. Matilda Trimble, Baltimore FSC, 82.32, 14, 17
18. Aly Lind, Desert Ice SC of Arizona, 59.22, 18, 18

Novice combined**Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1, FD**

1. Amal Israilova, Panthers FSC, 112.17, 2, 1
2. Jasmine Robertson, Scott Hamilton SC, 110.02, 1, 2
3. Miya Zamcho, Washington FSC, 96.56, 3, 4
4. Nicole Kirsanov, Patriot FSC, 92.62, 5, 5
5. Charlese Malaret, Utah FSC, 91.00, 17, 3
6. Anugraha Pillai, Kent Valley FSC, 87.35, 6, 6
7. Emerson Stein, Los Angeles FSC, 84.95, 10, 7
8. Mallory Crandle, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 84.48, 9, 8
9. Laura Drake, Columbus FSC, 84.18, 8, 11
10. Mina Esfandiari, Washington FSC, 83.75, 7, 13
11. Elizabeth Horwitz, Gilmour Academy FSC, 82.23, 13, 9
12. Amanda Piel, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 81.68, 11, 12
13. Maria Gonzalez, Desert Ice SC Of Arizona, 80.65, 15, 10
14. Ellie Suh, Los Angeles FSC, 78.35, 12, 14
15. Paige DeNormandie, Northern Ice SC, 77.84, 4, 15
16. Imani Gomez, Palm Beach FSC, 71.79, 16, 16
17. Madison Trinchillo, Essex SC of NJ, 71.58, 14, 17
18. Alexandra Ptacek, Peninsula SC, 65.20, 18, 18

Intermediate combined**Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1, FD**

1. Jordan Brenne, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 98.02, 1, 1
2. Khloe Felton, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 92.08, 3, 2
3. Mingzhu Huang, University of Delaware FSC, 88.15, 7, 3
4. Hadley Miles, FSC of Park City, 84.12, 10, 6
5. Marilynn McCoy-Sprung, Wisconsin FSC, 84.02, 5, 9
6. Georgia Achilles, Sun Valley FSC, 83.71, 14, 5
7. Chloe Taurel, FSC of Park City, 82.87, 9, 8
8. Amanda Urban, Washington FSC, 82.34, 6, 12
9. Lindsey Piel, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 82.18, 2, 15
10. Kate Mullen, All Year FSC, 80.74, 18, 4
11. Gloria Wang, North Jersey FSC, 80.34, 12, 7
12. Mahala Nguyen, Ann Arbor FSC, 79.86, 8, 13
13. Shannon Lee, SC of Phoenix, 77.98, 15, 10
14. Samhita Jonnalagadda, All Year FSC, 76.48, 13, 14
15. Milly Wasserman, SC of New York, 75.42, 16, 11
16. Zoe Cialella, Arctic FSC, 74.65, 11, 16
17. Taapti Rana, SC of Morris NJ, 72.33, 4, 18
18. Denali Cubillo, Patriot FSC, 68.28, 17, 17

Juvenile combined**Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1, FD**

1. Violet Yan, Washington FSC, 88.22, 2, 1
2. Caitlin Kim, Washington FSC, 87.21, 1, 2
3. Margaret Letcher, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 79.88, 4, 5
4. Lianne Fan, Washington FSC, 79.40, 7, 6
5. Miwa Davis, Columbus FSC, 77.82, 6, 9
6. Zofia Gong, Washington FSC, 77.53, 12, 4
7. Sophia Koscowski, Coyotes SC of Arizona, 77.27, 13, 3
8. Lola Brott, Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association, 75.53, 3, 15
9. Charlie Toy, Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association, 75.28, 8, 11
10. Nathalia Ortiz, Kent Valley FSC, 74.59, 5, 13
11. McKenna Martin, Columbus FSC, 73.00, 10, 12
12. Dmitrii Jones, Peaks FSC, 72.13, 11, 14
13. Delaney Darnes, Washington FSC, 71.81, 15, 10
14. Valentina Juricek, FSC of Southern California, 71.67, 17, 7
15. Chase Rohner, All Year FSC, 69.35, 18, 8
16. Emma Busby, Desert Ice SC of Arizona, 69.03, 9, 17
17. Evelyn Zheng, Washington FSC, 65.55, 16, 16
18. LorRae Portner, Starlight Ice Dance Club, 63.72, 14, 18

International Pattern Dance**Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1, P2**

1. Anna Lewis, Washington FSC, 72.26, 1, 1
2. Sophie Lewis, Washington FSC, 63.58, 3, 2
3. Ashley Wu, All Year FSC, 58.85, 2, 5
4. Shin Lei Case, Dallas FSC, 55.25, 4, 4
5. Hanna Arntsen, Scott Hamilton SC, 55.24, 5, 3
6. Paige Ellingson, Queen City FSC, 52.06, 7, 7
7. Katelyn Mamrick, Greenville FSC, 51.54, 9, 6
8. Ashley Bain, Freedom FSC, 51.47, 6, 8
9. Caroline Mura, Pittsburgh FSC, 48.44, 10, 9
10. Carmen Nasuti, Fraser FSC, 47.46, 8, 12
11. Faith Mlachak, Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights, 45.95, 11, 11
12. Alyssa Stump, Desert Ice SC of Arizona, 43.74, 13, 10
13. Connie Achtenberg, Arctic FSC, 40.46, 12, 13

Gold Pattern Dance**Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1, P2**

1. Drake Tong, Hickory Hill FSC, 67.81, 2, 6
2. Charlotte Manfield, University of Delaware FSC, 66.67, 8, 1
3. Hannah Kim, Glacier Falls FSC, 66.60, 4, 2
4. Chiara Tan, SC of New York, 65.38, 6, 3
5. Rebecca Hong, Washington FSC, 61.65, 3, 9
6. Katerina Dunleavy, Saratoga Springs FSC, 60.91, 1, 10
7. Jillian Murray, Onyx-Suburban SA, 60.22, 11, 5
8. Quincy Halliwell, Winterhurst FSC, 59.33, 9, 7
9. Kelly Arnett, Broadmoor SC, 58.76, 13, 4
10. Louisa Mor, SC of New York, 56.77, 10, 8
11. Leah Grieco, Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights, 56.59, 7, 12
12. Jalyn Dubois, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 56.22, 5, 14
13. Anna Roth, Ice House SA, 50.70, 12, 16
14. Alison Hanley, DuPage FSC, 49.56, 14, 13
15. Andria Annala, Arctic FSC, 48.98, 17, 11
16. Aevia Reale, Freedom FSC, 48.90, 15, 15
17. Emily McCann, Richmond FSC, 47.20, 16, 17

Pre-Gold Pattern Dance**Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1, P2**

1. Abby Mumby, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 69.40, 1, 1
2. Jocelyn Tan, SC of Morris NJ, 65.97, 3, 3
3. Amal Israilova, Panthers FSC, 64.21, 4, 2
4. Mina Esfandiari, Washington FSC, 64.11, 2, 5
5. Liam Tan, SC of New York, 59.66, 7, 6
6. Karin Kaneda, Washington FSC, 59.20, 6, 7
7. Selina Wu, Kingsgate SC, 58.07, 10, 4
8. Sara Tennyson, Freedom FSC, 57.47, 5, 9
9. Athena Roberts, Panthers FSC, 55.99, 8, 10
10. Mallory Crandle, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 53.29, 12, 8
11. Paige DeNormandie, Northern Ice SC, 51.83, 11, 11
12. Elizabeth Lee, Broadmoor SC, 51.05, 9, 16
13. Eli Sparrow, Philadelphia SC & HS, 49.80, 14, 12
14. Sarah Tuzinowski, Ann Arbor FSC, 49.22, 13, 13
15. Abigail Cimpello, Queen City FSC, 45.35, 16, 14
16. Aly Lind, Desert Ice SC Of Arizona, 45.14, 15, 15
17. Stephanie Knighton, Utah FSC, 43.49, 17, 17

Silver Pattern Dance**Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1, P2**

1. Jasmine Robertson, Scott Hamilton SC, 83.01, 2, 1
2. Laura Drake, Columbus FSC, 79.90, 1, 3
3. Amanda Piel, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 77.66, 3, 2
4. Anugraha Pillai, Kent Valley FSC, 72.66, 4, 4
5. Sloan Markin, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 65.88, 8, 5
6. Natalie Brenne, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 65.18, 10, 6
7. Madison Trinchillo, Essex SC of NJ, 62.61, 9, 8
8. Ellie Suh, Los Angeles FSC, 61.59, 11, 9
9. Imani Gomez, Palm Beach FSC, 59.73, 7, 16
10. Maria Gonzalez, Desert Ice SC Of Arizona, 59.54, 6, 17
11. Kristina Elias, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 58.81, 5, 18
12. Hadley Miles, FSC of Park City, 58.28, 15, 11
13. Lindsey Giel, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 57.69, 17, 7
14. Isabelle Pao, SC of Morris NJ, 57.68, 12, 15
15. Emerson Stein, Los Angeles FSC, 57.65, 14, 12

16. Anastacia Fuentes, Vegas Golden Knights Center of Excellence, 57.25, 13, 14

17. Shreya Tanna, SC of Morris NJ, 55.95, 16, 13

18. Madison Kang, Essex SC of NJ, 53.92, 18, 10

Pre-Silver Pattern Dance Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1, P2

1. Khloe Felton, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 80.24, 1, 1

2. Jessica Burns, Ann Arbor FSC, 75.96, 3, 3

3. Jordan Brenne, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 75.14, 4, 4

4. Georgia Achilles, Sun Valley FSC, 71.52, 10, 5

5. Shannon Lee, SC of Phoenix, 70.51, 2, 9

6. Luly Furukawa, Kent Valley FSC, 69.56, 5, 7

7. Rebecca Hakansson, Ann Arbor FSC, 67.16, 6, 2

8. Lorissa Zhou, Central Carolina SC, 67.13, 9, 8

9. Milly Wasserman, SC of New York, 67.00, 7, 10

10. Taapti Rana, SC of Morris NJ, 66.95, 11, 6

11. Abigail Dalsin, Desert Ice SC of Arizona, 65.87, 6, 14

12. Chloe Taurel, FSC of Park City, 64.65, 8, 15

13. Cheri Hendrix, FSC of Park City, 63.87, 12, 12

14. McKenna Martin, Columbus FSC, 63.14, 13, 13

15. Mallory Fogt, Columbus FSC, 62.28, 14, 11

16. Tyrata Srisukwattananan, Baltimore FSC, 57.22, 15, 16

17. Jordyn Lutz, Tampa Bay SC, 51.84, 17, 18

18. Samantha Flores, Georgia FSC, 50.80, 18, 17

Bronze Pattern Dance Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1, P2

1. Caitlin Kim, Washington FSC, 89.02, 1, 1

2. Lianne Fan, Washington FSC, 76.78, 2, 3

3. Felicia Lin, Ann Arbor FSC, 74.61, 7, 2

4. Zofia Kong, Washington FSC, 72.94, 3, 7

5. Nathan Tan, SC of New York, 72.47, 4, 8

6. Emma Busby, Desert Ice SC of Arizona, 71.96, 9, 4

7. Bethany Zhao, Peninsula SC, 71.79, 6, 6

8. Margaret Letcher, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 69.60, 5, 10

9. Nathalia Ortiz, Kent Valley FSC, 68.47, 10, 5

10. Katherine Zhong, Desert Ice SC of Arizona, 66.68, 8, 12

11. Sophia Gloskowski, Coyotes SC of Arizona, 63.89, 12, 9

12. Evan Peal, Scott Hamilton SC, 62.89, 11, 13

13. Yutian Yin, SC of Novi, 61.59, 13, 11

14. Ian Zachary, Los Angeles FSC, 57.96, 14, 14

15. Tyler Moore, FSC of Osceola, 50.38, 16, 15

16. Ella Pickett, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 49.67, 15, 17

17. Quinn Davis, Washington FSC, 49.39, 17, 16

18. Ava Dolezal, Glenwood FSC, 48.04, 18, 18

Pre-Bronze Pattern Dance Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1, P2

1. Chase Rohner, All Year FSC, 76.63, 2, 1

2. Lola Brott, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 74.19, 1, 3

3. Jenny Lee, Ann Arbor FSC, 72.45, 4, 2

4. Abigail Yin, SC of Novi, 67.18, 8, 4

5. Charlie Toy, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 64.87, 3, 8

6. Megan Ashcroft, All Year FSC, 64.28, 9, 6

7. Evelyn Zheng, Washington FSC, 64.05, 10, 5

8. Campbell Urban, Washington FSC, 63.98, 7, 7

9. Dmitrii Jones, Peaks FSC, 63.18, 5, 10

10. Evelyn Jones, Peaks FSC, 62.79, 6, 9

11. Christina Amat, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 57.72, 11, 11

12. Adam Ashcroft, All Year FSC, 55.73, 13, 12

13. Caroline Fox, Ann Arbor FSC, 53.08, 14, 13

14. Joelle Tan, SC of New York, 52.24, 12, 15

15. Ameya Saund, Peninsula SC, 51.56, 15, 14

16. Katie Caruso, University of Delaware FSC, 41.35, 16, 17

17. Margaret Lee, Glissad SC, 34.15, 18, 16

18. Audrey-Joy Fontana, First Coast FSC, 31.38, 17, 18

Preliminary Pattern Dance Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1, P2

1. Haru Takanashi, Washington FSC, 79.71, 1, 1

2. Henry Malaret, Utah FSC, 74.67, 3, 2

3. Jackie Liang, Richmond FSC, 71.94, 2, 4

4. Mira Bair, Individual Member, 67.70, 6, 3

5. Shauna Vorhees, Desert Ice SC of Arizona, 63.36, 5, 6

6. Taylor Hay, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 62.77, 4, 8

7. Laurena Chen, Peninsula SC, 61.00, 7, 10

8. Stephanie Chen, Peninsula SC, 59.53, 8, 7

9. Kennedy Moseley, Vegas Golden Knights Center of Excellence, 58.70, 10, 5

10. Leah White, SC of Southern New Jersey, 55.57, 11, 11

11. Daria Shebukhov, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 53.66, 14, 12

12. Lilly Eldridge, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 53.52, 12, 14

13. Claire Schweitzer, Columbus FSC, 53.39, 13, 13

14. Reina Morikami, Peninsula SC, 53.22, 15, 9

15. Aasha Sisaudia, Coyotes SC of Arizona, 50.17, 9, 16

16. Sophia Orantes, FSC of Osceola, 44.72, 16, 15

17. Anshika Yadlapati, Georgia FSC, 40.13, 17, 17

18. Cameron Konetzki, Baltimore FSC, 29.17, 18, 18

Pre-Gold Shadow Dance Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1

1. Selina Wu, Kingsgate SC/Ashley Wu, All Year FSC, 37.68, 1

2. Mallory Crandle/Kristina Elias, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 35.68, 2

3. Karin Kaneda, Washington FSC/Jadyn Nahon, SC of Northern Virginia, 33.55, 3

4. Sirinya Frankel, Denver Colorado FSC/ Claire Katen, Broadmoor SC, 29.02, 4

5. Annalisa Albers/Andria Annala, Arctic FSC, 28.43, 5

6. Aly Lind, Desert Ice SC of Arizona/ Gwen Durkee, Individual Member, 26.98, 6

7. Sara Tennyson/Aevia Reale, Freedom FSC, 26.88, 7

8. Evelyn Lemm/Sarah Tuzinowski, Ann Arbor FSC, 26.75, 8

9. Jenna Kilpatrick/Olivia Ko/Princeton SC, 26.33, 9, 9

Gold International Shadow Dance Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1

1. Anna Lewis/Sophie Lewis, Washington FSC, 39.88, 1

2. Carlie Quesada, All Year FSC/Jaysa Bozzuto, Sun Valley FSC, 36.99

3. Alyssa Stump, Desert Ice SC of Arizona/Rebecca Li, Coyotes SC of Arizona, 35.97, 3

4. Faith Mlachak, Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights/Elizabeth Horwitz, Gilmour Academy FSC, 32.83, 4

5. Nicole Czuhajewski, Greater Kalamazoo SA/ Ciara Athy, Northern Ice SC, 32.41, 5

6. Leah Grieco, Pavilion SC of Cleveland Heights/ Quincy Halliwell, Winterhurst FSC, 29.79, 6

7. Dana Piliere, Garden State SC/ Ashley Bain, Freedom FSC, 29.03, 7

8. Alexandra Ortiz/Kaitlyn Hatley, Peninsula SC, 28.07, 8

9. Lauren Lechner/Kelsey Jagusch, Jersey Coast FSC, 27.67, 9

Pre-Silver Shadow Dance Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1

1. Khloe Felton/Jordan Brenne, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 40.94, 1

2. Elizabeth Ludlow/Sara Zubieta, Ann Arbor FSC, 37.67, 2

3. Chloe Taurel/Hadley Miles, FSC of Park City, 35.04, 3

4. Jessica Burns/Shravya Awtar, Ann Arbor FSC, 32.69, 4

5. Leela Aiyagari/Rebecca Hakansson, Ann Arbor FSC, 31.84, 5

6. Vered Polonsky, Peninsula SC/Anugraha Pillai, Kent Valley FSC, 30.21, 6

Silver Shadow Dance Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1

1. Natalie Brenne/Amanda Piel, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 39.76, 1

2. Sloan Markin/Jordan Brenne, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 36.46, 2

3. Lindsey Piel/Khloe Felton, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 32.59, 3

4. Kaitlyn Hatley/Alexandra Ptacek, Peninsula SC, 30.96, 4

5. Abigail Dalsin/Maria Gonzalez, Desert Ice SC of Arizona, 27.79, 5

6. Cherie Sun, Princeton SC/Gloria Wang, North Jersey FSC, 25.22, 6

Pre-Bronze Shadow Dance Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1

1. Cheri Hendrix, FSC of Park City/Dmitrii Jones, Peaks FSC, 41.15, 1

2. Melissa Yang/Jenny Lee, Ann Arbor FSC, 40.87, 2

3. Campbell Urban/Cyrienne McReynolds, Washington FSC, 40.41, 3

4. Ellie Munden/Katherine Kirschensteiner, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 35.85, 4

5. Megan Ashcroft/Adam Ashcroft, All Year FSC, 34.67, 5

6. Caroline Fox/Ashley Choi, Ann Arbor FSC, 33.53, 6

7. Laura Swanger/Aurora Janevic, Ann Arbor FSC, 33.52, 7

8. Evelyn Blackwell/Marjorie Thornton, Windy City FSC, 31.34, 8

9. Meadow Stewart/Skye Thompson, Peaks FSC, 31.12, 9

Bronze Shadow Dance Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1

1. Felicia Lin/Jessica Burns, Ann Arbor FSC, 44.41, 1

2. Nathalia Ortiz/Luly Furukawa, Kent Valley FSC, 37.33, 2

3. Emma Busby/Katherine Zhong, Desert Ice SC of Arizona, 34.55, 3

4. Shravya Awtar/Elise Meints, Ann Arbor FSC, 34.45, 4

5. Evelyn Jones, Peaks FSC/Cheri Hendrix, FSC of Park City, 33.15, 5

6. Maggie Najbrt/Kari Jastremski, Georgia FSC, 22.79, 6

Preliminary Shadow Dance Pl., Name, Club, TS, P1

1. Laurena Chen/Stephanie Chen, Peninsula SC, 37.90, 1

2. Asmita Brahme/Ameya Saund, Peninsula SC, 33.79, 2

3. Charlie Toy/Lola Brott, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 31.09, 3

4. Ashlyn Incantalupo/Kaitlyn Corpuz, Jersey Coast FSC, 28.95, 4

5. Aasha Sisaudia/Makena Hale, Coyotes SC of Arizona, 28.87, 5

6. Leanna Lago/Sophia Brichkov, Jersey Coast FSC, 22.51, 6

7. Tenley LaPorte/Paige Dobbs, Greater Kalamazoo SA, 21.64, 7

2021 U.S. FIGURE SKATING NOVICE AND JUNIOR CHALLENGE SKATE

NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS, SEPT. 15-19

Competition Officials: Competition Officials:

Anne Cammett, Beth Crane, Kathaleen Cutone, Charles Cyr, Alexander Enzmann, Wendy Enzmann, Ece Esen, Kristen Fraser-Lukanin, Peggy Graham, Victoria Hildebrand, Karen Howard, Susan Keogh, Juri Kononov, Konstantin Kostin, Lolita Labunskaya, Nicole LeBlanc Richard, Rock Lemay, Hal Marron, , Sasha Martinez, Yevgeny Martynov, Fabio Mascarello, Elyse Matsumo-

RESULTS

to, Danielle Hartsell Minnis, Rachael Naphtal, Connacht Peterson, Robert Rosenbluth, Elliot Schwartz, Katherine Specht, Erica Topolski

Junior Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Josephine Lee, 149.95, 1, 5
2. Elsa Cheng, 149.67, 3, 1
3. Sarah Everhardt, 148.10, 4, 2
4. Abigail Ross, 145.07, 6, 3
5. Alena Budko, 142.17, 7, 4
6. Violeta Ushakova, 137.58, 5, 6
7. Hannah Lofton, 132.61, 10, 7
8. Brynn Roberts, 123.87, 8, 8
9. Isabelle Inthisone, 122.56, 9, 9
10. Hazel Collier, 120.95, 2, 12
11. Gwen Bloesch, 115.02, 11, 11
12. Ria Basu, 113.90, 12, 10
13. Lilly Mills, 105.61, 13, 13
14. Bailey Onixt, 97.92, 14, 15
15. Lianna OGrady, 97.23, 15, 14

Junior Men

Pl. Name, TS, FS, SP

1. Robert Yampolsky, 183.09, 1, 2
2. Maxim Zharkov, 181.57, 2, 1
3. Philip Baker, 166.11, 3, 4
4. Samuel Mindra, 158.75, 6, 3
5. Taira Shinohara, 153.96, 7, 6
6. Jonathan Hildebrandt, 153.16, 9, 5
7. Beck Strommer, 152.83, 4, 9
8. Zachary Yaninek, 152.54, 5, 8
9. Luke Wang, 145.41, 8, 10
10. Alexander Liu, 133.34, 11, 7
11. Bryan Lehmann, 130.43, 10, 11

Junior Ice Dance

Pl. Name, TS, RD, FD

1. Helena Carhart/Volodymyr Horovyi, 143.07, 1, 1
2. Elliana Peal/Ethan Peal, 130.88, 3, 2
3. Vanessa Pham/Jonathan Rogers, 125.98, 2, 3
4. Jenna Hauer/Benjamin Starr, 121.54, 4, 4
5. Anabelle Larson/Lucas Appel, 116.42, 5, 5
6. Caroline Mullen/Brendan Mullen, 113.94, 6, 6
7. Kristina Bland/Matthew Sperry, 107.92, 7, 7
8. Olivia Dietrich/Eduard Pylypenko, 92.12, 8, 8

Novice Ladies

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Phattaratida Kaneshige, 145.34, 7, 1

2. Elyce Lin-Gracey, 145.22, 1, 2
3. Lilah Gibson, 137.50, 4, 3
4. Lauren Jeong, 135.32, 2, 5
5. Phoebe Stubblefield, 134.33, 6, 4
6. Giselle Graves, 127.25, 5, 6
7. Athena Huang, 121.46, 3, 8
8. Julianna Farrell, 117.70, 12, 7
9. Cindy Lin, 116.96, 9, 9
10. Annika Chao, 112.95, 10, 10
11. Cayetana Gonzalez, 108.62, 8, 12
12. Jiaying Johnson, 103.37, 13, 11
13. Gabriela Summer Panaligan, 96.83, 11, 15
14. Lindsey Byer, 93.32, 15, 13
15. Claire Kroell, 90.84, 14, 14
16. Ava Roy, 86.41, 16, 16
17. Kassandra Olejniczak, 76.24, 17, 17

Novice Men

Pl. Name, TS, SP, FS

1. Aleksandr Fegan, 142.12, 1, 1
2. Patrick Blackwell, 132.31, 3, 2
3. Lucius Kazanecki, 121.08, 5, 3
4. Antonio Monaco, 120.61, 2, 6
5. Andriy Kratyuk, 118.77, 4, 5
6. Tao MacRae, 116.44, 8, 4
7. Michael Chapa, 99.75, 7, 8
8. Solomon Bristol, 98.10, 9, 7
9. Jack Liu, 95.75, 10, 9
10. Jared Sedlis, 92.37, 11, 10
11. Carter Griffin, 92.16, 6, 12
12. Samuel Eckenroed, 88.48, 12, 11

Novice Ice Dance

Pl. Name, TS, P1, FD

1. Sylvia Li/Rowan Le Coq, 80.03, 3, 1
2. Olivia Ilin/Dylan Cain, 75.74, 1, 4
3. Anna Sophia OBrien/Steven Wei, 74.02, 2, 3
4. Michela Melillo/Sam Chen, 70.68, 9, 2
5. Charley Steen/Reese Moore, 70.66, 4, 5
6. Xinyu Chen/Jack Liu, 70.24, 6, 6
7. Meghan Dugan/Jonathan Young, 68.26, 5, 7
8. Michelle Deych/Wiles Middlekauff, 66.68, 7, 8
9. Annelise Stapert/Maxim Korotcov, 65.73, 8, 9
10. Catherine Cummings/Alexander Cummings, 50.83, 10, 10

JGP POLAND

SEPT. 29-OCT. 2, 2021, GDANSK, POLAND

Women

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

1. Sofia Akateva, RUS, 225.64, 1, 1
2. Elizaveta Kulikova, RUS, 183.44, 4, 2
3. Jia Shin, KOR, 183.41, 2, 3
4. Clare Seo, USA, 174.86, 3, 4
5. Heesue Han, KOR, 168.25, 6, 5
6. Mia Kalin, USA, 154.73, 5, 7

(26 women competed)

Men

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

1. Gleb Lutfullin, RUS, 231.26, 1, 1
2. Mikhail Shaidorov, KAZ, 207.03, 6, 2
3. Egor Rukhin, RUS, 202.28, 2, 4
4. Naoki Rossi, SUI, 197.27, 4, 5
5. William Annis, USA, 197.13, 5, 3
6. Jacob Sanchez, USA, 194.03, 3, 7

(22 men competed)

Pairs

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

1. Ekaterina Chikmareva/Matvei Ianchenkov, RUS, 171.97, 4, 1
2. Ekaterina Petushkova/Evgenii Malikov, RUS, 169.80, 2, 2
3. Polina Kostjukovich/Aleksei Briukhanov, RUS, 162.14, 1, 4
4. Anastasiia Smirnova/Danil Slianytsia, USA, 153.63, 3, 3

5. Isabelle Martins/Ryan Bedard, USA, 141.96, 5, 5
(7 teams competed)

Ice dance

Pl., Name, Country, TS, RD, FD

1. Irina Khavronina/Dario Cirisano, RUS, 168.96, 1, 1
2. Isabella Flores/Dimitry Tsarevski, USA, 154.34, 2, 2
3. Angelina Kudryavtseva/Ilia Karankevich, CVP, 148.95, 4, 3
4. Olga Mamchenkova/Mark Volkov, RUS, 147.61, 3, 4
5. Leah Neset/Artem Markelov, USA, 135.34, 6, 5

(15 teams competed)

U.S. officials: Todd Bromley, Linda Leaver, John Cole

APPOINTMENTS

Bronze Singles Test Judge

Lexi Barney, Mapleton, Ill.; Alexis Fenton, Stillwell, Kan.; Stephanie Zastrow, Bradenton, Fla.

Silver Singles Test Judge

Thomas Hill, Austin, Texas

Gold Singles Test Judge

Michelle Marvin, Haverford, Pa.; Denise Pendleton, Ventura, Calif.

Gold Dance Test Judge

Stephanie Anderson, Pewee Valley, Ky.

Nonqualifying Singles Competition Judge

Amanda Way, San Francisco

Regional Singles/Pairs Competition Judge

Christina Vandermissen, Johns Creek, Ga.

Virtual Accountant

Alan Heinold, Westford, Mass.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

27 | **Turkey Twizzle** held in West Bend, WI, sponsored by Kettle Moraine FSC. Contact andrea.m.lange@gmail.com for more information.

DECEMBER

12 | **2021 Chippewa Basic skills-preliminary Competition** held in Chippewa Falls, WI, sponsored by Chippewa FSC. Contact jansky.april@gmail.com for more information.

JANUARY 2022

16 | **Blades in Synch 2022** held in Dale City, VA, sponsored by Prince William Ice Stars. Contact mkhaltourina@pwice.com for more information.

Senior Moves In The Field

Holland Arney — Individual
 Kristina Artemova — Dallas FSC
 Melania Bachleitner — Kettle Moraine FSC
 Kyra Batley — FSC of Madison
 Madeline Benson — Skokie Valley SC
 Colette Bildson — Ice House of New Jersey FSC
 Dmitriy Bogomol — All Year FSC
 Elise Borelli — Windy City FSC
 Sydney Brandt — Chelsea FSC
 Violette Browner — Winterhawks FSC
 Danielle Buckley — Seattle SC
 Isabella Buehrle — The SC of Huntsville
 Kelsey Burns — Adrian College
 Jackie Cahaly — Colonial FSC
 Amelia Campbell — Wheaton FSC
 Hallie Carmen — Rye FSC
 Channi Chang — All Year FSC
 Rena Chen — North Jersey FSC
 Emma Cheney — Panthers FSC
 Annie Chu — Starlight Ice Dance Club
 Elizabeth Chuang — SC of Northern Virginia
 Michelle Chuang — SC of Northern Virginia
 Aubrey Cohoon — Greater Grand Rapids FSC
 Anna Coke — Heartland FSC
 Olivia Cooper — Space Coast Ice Plex FSC
 Jenna Cope — Denver Colorado FSC
 Rebecca Cramer — Washington FSC
 Abigail Dalsin — Desert Ice SC of Arizona
 Annika Dawson — Austin FSC
 Shayna Demick — University of Delaware FSC
 Aaliyah Devins — Space Coast Ice Plex FSC
 Mackenzie Erickson — Maplewood FSC
 Darby Felbein — Copper State SC
 Maggie Fipps — FSC of Watertown
 Sabrina Foti — Carolinas FSC
 Victoria Fuzak — Buffalo SC
 Cynthia Gao — Cascade Valley FSC
 Maddie Gorman — SC of Central New York
 Clara Gvozdas — Sun Valley FSC
 Ellie Han — Cottonwood Heights FSC
 Londin Hassell — Coyotes SC of Arizona
 Rose Haugh — Heartland FSC
 Finley Hawk — ISC of Indianapolis
 Ashley Helton — Mountain Edge SC of Colorado
 Julia Higgs — Alpine SC
 Molly Holland — Dearborn FSC
 Avery Hollinger — SC of Northern Virginia
 Yoonji Hong — Ann Arbor FSC
 Kennedy Hosman — Muskegon Lakeshore FSC
 Emma Hubert — Princeton SC
 Maya Izzi — Dearborn FSC
 Santina Jacques — Pawtucket & Providence FSC
 Vaibhavi James — North Star FSC
 Peyton Johnson — Lake Minnetonka FSC
 Sanna Joshi — Hayden Recreation Centre FSC
 Delaney Keenan — Glenwood FSC
 Andrea Keiper — Penguin FSC
 Isabella Kim — Hayden Recreation Centre FSC
 Robyn Knight — Southport SC
 Vadym Kolesnik — SC of New York
 Courtney Kuhn — Broadmoor SC
 Sophia LaDue — St. Clair Shores FSC
 Rowan Le Coq — SC of New York
 Ari Levin — SC of Wilmington
 Emily Li — Skating Club of Boston
 Madison Majeske — Chelsea FSC
 Jennie Mao — Braemar-City of Lakes FSC
 Nicole Mathews — FSC of Southern California
 Gabrielle Mendoza — Glacier Falls FSC
 Taya Mishin — Central Carolina SC
 Hannah Mitchell — DuPage FSC
 Mikhail Mokhov — Chelsea FSC
 Clara Mori — SC of San Francisco
 Sarah Myers — Dallas FSC
 Avonley Nguyen — SC of New York
 Darren Nyland — Norwich FSC
 Evie O'Brien — SC of Boston
 Samantha Park — SC of Northern Virginia
 Jordan Peiser — Great Neck FSC
 Lucy Petscher — Jamestown SC
 Madeleine Phan — St. Moritz ISC
 Elyse Piotrowski — Kettle Moraine FSC
 Lucia Raggazino — Center Ice of Oaks FSC
 Ashley Ruan — Peninsula SC

Ryedin Rudedenman — All Year FSC
 Elizabeth Scott — McCall FSC
 Ava Skytta — Duluth FSC
 Claire Sobash — SC of Houston
 Cora Stearnes — FSC of Omaha
 Stephanie Stone — San Diego FSC
 Michaela Sumner — Adrian College
 Cherie Sun — Princeton SC
 Angela Tan — DuPage FSC
 Anna Thomason — St. Moritz ISC
 Erika Turnbull — Ice House SA
 Brooklyn Tworck — Onyx-Suburban SA
 Enzi Wang — La Jolla FSC
 Julia Wartman — Highland SC
 Ellen Wei — Scott Hamilton SC
 Audrey Weizer — Ann Arbor FSC
 Madeleine Wiitala — Lake Minnetonka FSC
 Gabe Winawer — Center Skating Academy
 Grace Witulski — Lakeland FSC
 Olivia Yang — SC of Morris NJ
 Madeline Yee — Southwest Florida FSC
 Ava You — DuPage FSC
 Arianna Yu — Rye FSC
 Sarah Yuen — Skokie Valley SC
 Megan Zhang — SC of Northern Virginia
 Sue Zhang — Great Neck FSC
 Jonathan Zhao — Triangle FSC
Adult Gold Moves In The Field 21+
 Elizabeth Fisher — La Jolla FSC
 Alexis Frey — Sun Valley FSC
 Anastasia Korobeynikova — Vegas Golden Knights
 Center of Excellence
 Julieta Murillo-Lomeli — All Year FSC
 Diane Platts — Individual
 Caysie Reuter — Wagon Wheel FSC
 Deana Sroka — North Jersey FSC
 Roxanne Stehlik — SC of Ice Land
 Ayla Webster — Everett FSC
Adult Senior Moves In The Field 21+
 Sarah Hutton — SC of New York
Senior Free Skate
 Lara Annunziata — IceWorks SC
 Meaghan Anzalone — SC of New York
 Daniel Argueta — SC of Houston
 Megan Audet — SC of Phoenix
 Georgia Bolocan — Atlanta FSC
 Nadiri Brooks — Alaska Assoc of Figure Skaters
 Isabel Carney — Finer Edge FSC
 Mae Carroll — North Atlantic FSC
 Elizabeth Casey — Ann Arbor FSC
 Chloe Chan — All Year FSC
 Mia Cittadine — Northern Ice SC
 Mia Eckels — White Rose FSC
 Molly Fortkamp — Penguin FSC
 Liliana Franzese — Arctic FSC
 Lauren Gizinski — Chaska FSC
 Callie Goins — Georgia FSC
 Clara Gross — SC of Boston
 Finley Hawk — ISC of Indianapolis
 Ashlyn Huber — Seattle SC
 Isabelle Inthisone — Los Angeles FSC
 Madelyn Jordan — Carolinas FSC
 Kellie Lambert — Miami University
 Jessica Lambros — Vaca Valley FSC
 Annette Lee — SC of Houston
 Katie Lin — Cortland FSC
 Andee Lyons — FSC of Park City
 Louise MacKay — ISC of Indianapolis
 Lindsay Mattenson — Glacier Falls FSC
 Maggie Morris — Daytona Beach FSC
 Marina Nelson — Burnsville-MN Valley FSC
 Anna Olson-Voss — Carousel Sherwood FSC
 Emma Ortiz — SC of New York
 Isleen Pi — San Diego FSC
 Sofia Pica — St. Moritz ISC
 Joan Playford — University of Notre Dame
 Eric Prober — Panthers FSC
 Aleksandra Prudsky — SC of Houston
 Lily Rauh — SC of Boston
 Sasha Reardon — SC of Houston
 Athena Roberts — Panthers FSC
 Alyson Robinson — Central Carolina SC
 Alain Sandraz — Peninsula SC
 Jessica Searbo — North Shore SC
 Eric Sjoberg — Los Angeles FSC

Cecile Szollas — Penguin FSC
 Lindsay Thorngren — SC of New York
 Ian Tsang — Glacier Falls FSC
 Emma Vail — SC of New York
 Julia Wartman — Highland SC
 Eleanor Watson — Eden Prairie FSC
 Hannah Wei — Jamestown SC
 Megan Wesche — Glacier Falls FSC
 Avery Wilkinson — Atlanta FSC
 Cathleen Xi — Knickerbocker FSC
 Anthony Ying — SC of Boston
Adult Gold Free Skate
 Melanie Pitrof — Kettle Moraine FSC

Gold/Senior Pair

Kate Finster — SC of New York
 Jim Garbutt — Champions' Edge SC
 Nick Hubbard — Champions' Edge SC
 Danil Siianytsia — All Year FSC
 Anastasiia Smirnova — SC of New York
Gold Dance
 Isabella Badhwar — Pittsburgh FSC
 Dmitriy Bogomol — All Year FSC
 Holly Dearnell — Charleston FSC
 Nastia Efimova — Triangle FSC
 Sophia Eowyn Hsu — SC of New York
 Madelyn Jordan — Carolinas FSC
 Vadym Kolesnik — SC of New York
 Allison Korpi — Escanaba Area FSC
 Kendra Lachcik — Skokie Valley SC
 Erica Lee — Skokie Valley SC
 Kaleigh LeVick — Cortland FSC
 Kelly Lim — Knickerbocker FSC
 Kendall Petersen — Wisconsin Rapids FSC
 Margaryta Polishchuk — Tampa Bay SC
 Hallie RothSinger — Great Neck FSC
 Thomas Schwappach — Broadmoor SC
 Jenna Shilts — Great Lakes FSC
 Nathaniel Viera-Davis — Daytona Beach FSC
 Jonathan Zhao — Triangle FSC
Adult Gold Dance 21+
 Barbara Bowser — ION FSC
 Pamela Federbusch — North Jersey FSC
Solo Gold Dance
 Taryn Brandt — Carolinas FSC
 Minako Cheney — Tacoma FSC
 Josie Cochran — Cleveland SC
 Cindy Dang — Glissad SC
 Carissa Gann — All Year FSC
 Aunika Hoch — Vaca Valley FSC
 Katherine Jaessing — Kettle Moraine FSC
 Smin Liu — Central Carolina SC
 Alyssa Malinowski — SC of New Hartford
 Michelle Murphy — Windy City FSC
 Alyson Robinson — Central Carolina SC
 Allaina Werstler — Wooster FSC
Senior Free Dance
 Hilary Asher — Skokie Valley SC
 Dmitriy Bogomol — All Year FSC
 Emily Bratti — Washington FSC
 Katherine Bronov — IceWorks SC
 Jeffrey Chen — Peninsula SC
 Sophia Domonoske — FSC of Park City
 Sophia Eowyn Hsu — SC of New York
 Vadym Kolesnik — SC of New York
 Raffaella Koncius — Los Angeles FSC
 Avonley Nguyen — SC of New York
 Thomas Schwappach — Broadmoor SC
 Ian Somerville — Washington FSC
 Katarina Wolfkostin — Peninsula SC
Adult Gold Free Dance 21+
 Pamela Federbusch — North Jersey FSC
Senior Solo Free Dance
 Hannah Andrews — Kettle Moraine FSC
 Madelyn Bohrer — Winterhurst FSC
 Sarah Branch — St. Paul FSC
 Corin Brasier — Metro Edge FSC of Missouri
 Lily Bronson — Blue Ridge FSC
 Josie Cochran — Cleveland SC
 Shanda DeWitt — Detroit SC
 Callie Drozd — Washington FSC
 Erin Egelhoff — Columbus FSC
 Anna Florit-Scarvelis — La Jolla FSC
 Diana Grant — Washington FSC
 Clara Gvozdas — Sun Valley FSC

TESTS PASSED

Naomi Halphen — Columbia FSC (MD)
Leah Han — Cottonwood Heights FSC
Valerie Jahn — SC of Lake Placid
Sara Kormanyos — Seattle SC
Allison Korpi — Escanaba Area FSC
Adrielle Lee — Skokie Valley SC
Sara Maity — Los Angeles FSC
Alina McIntyre — Eau Claire FSC
Sabrina Meng — San Diego FSC

Kayla Menshon — Individual
Dominique Mickiewicz — Washington FSC
Ava Moreal — Strongsville SC
Alison Neumann — St. Paul FSC
Sydni Nikolai — Midland FSC
Taylor Olender — SC of Boston
Julianna Romero — Skokie Valley SC
Lindy Shannon — Metro Edge FSC of Missouri
Hannah Shrader — Individual

Alaina Theis — Greater Green Bay FSC
Carla Torres — Denver Colorado FSC
Rorie Tressel — Bay Country FSC
Veda VanErem — Greater Green Bay FSC
Michelle Yau — SC of San Francisco
Alexa Zydeck — Farmington Hills FSC
Adult Senior Solo Free Dance 21+
Alejandra Gibson — San Antonio FSC

OBITUARIES

KREPPPEL

Shirley M. Kreppel (nee Schwartz), who judged more than 11,000 tests and 300 competitions, passed away on Sept. 2, 2021. She was 93.

Shirley earned her first appointment as a figure judge in 1965 and followed that up with appointments as a gold figure judge, gold dance test judge with certification to judge international pattern dance tests, and gold singles/pairs test judge.

She also held appointments as a sectional dance competition judge and referee, sectional singles/pairs competition judge and referee, and national synchronized competition judge and referee.

Shirley served as an official at the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships eight times. Among her other contributions to U.S. Figure Skating, she served as a member of the State Games Committee and the Precision Skating Committee, as well as a sectional vice chair on the Competitions Committee.

She is survived by children John (Kathleen) Kreppel, Michael (Susan) Kreppel, Karen (Glenn) Hopkins and Lisa Laroussi; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to SABAH, 2607 Niagara St, Buffalo, NY 14207 or the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School Legacy Fund.

MACHADO GRAY

Catherine "Cathy" Machado Gray, the first Hispanic and Latina to represent the United States at the Olympic Winter Games in 1956, passed away on Sept. 14, 2021. The Los Angeles ice queen was 86.

Machado, also known as "Chado" by friends, grew up in Los Angeles and trained at the former Polar Palace. She was a two-time U.S. bronze medalist in 1955 and 1956. Her efforts at the 1955



Catherine "Cathy" Machado Gray

World Championships and bronze medal at the U.S. Championships earned her place on the 1956 U.S. Olympic Team in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Unknown to her at the time, Machado was the first Hispanic and Latina to represent the U.S. at the Winter Olympics and would pave the way for future skaters of color.

"Many Europeans in the World Championships were even surprised to find out I was Mexican-American from the U.S. and not from another Latin country," Machado told a reporter in 1984. "They were confused by my name. They couldn't figure out my ethnic background."

Machado placed third in the free skate and finished eighth overall at the Olympics Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, with her teammates Tenley Albright and Carol Heiss winning gold and silver, respectively.

"She had a way of responding to

the music and making the most of every move that was truly amazing," Albright said. "[The music] was part of her and that was very rare for anybody then. It's very rare even now.

"When I remember her, I remember her always with a happy expression. And I can just picture her moving right now down the ice at the beginning of her program to *La Boheme*. When she did that, she was already with the music. It was really quite a wonderful experience."

At the end of the 1956 season, Machado turned professional, toured with Ice Capades for eight years and performed in Las Vegas and Paris. Machado met John Gray, a Canadian comedian-skater with the troupe, and the two married and started a family.

In 1969, Machado Gray began her coaching career at the Culver City Ice Arena until it closed in 2014.

"She was amazing, so special and loving," Albright reminisced. "I envied the students who were able to have her as a coach."

Machado Gray was recognized for her achievements and inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2005.

"You have to want it and love it because you have to give up a lot of things," Machado Gray said. "I have no regrets. I'm proud of what I've done. I've seen a whole world because of skating."

Editor's note: Read the full version of this obituary on usfigureskating.org.

MCNEILL

James McNeill, a line skater in Sonja Henie's 1952 traveling ice show, passed away in early October. McNeill was born and raised in Cortez, Colorado, and resided in Beaver Utah, at the time of his death.

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M	S	J	D	G	I	N	G
S	A	S	H	A	F	I	C
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*"Pic® Frame skates
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lockdown — thank you."*

*Serafina D'Cruze, age
7, placed 2nd out of 82
skaters at her level
aged 7 to 13.*

*She is now on the
British ice skating
development squad."*





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