

# *Twin City Figure Skating Association*

## RINK LINK

March 2000

### 2000 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships

The 2000 State Farm U. S. Figure Skating Championships were held February 6-13, 2000, in Cleveland, Ohio. Four Minnesota skaters competed this year at the national championships. Congratulations to each of them on their successful year and best wishes for their continued success!

Katie Lee, St. Paul FSC, competed in the Championship Ladies division (sp19, fs17, final 17). Katie is the 2000 Midwestern Sectionals Senior Ladies Champion as well as the 2000 Minnesota State Senior Lady Champion. She trains under the coaching guidance of Debbie Karl at St. Paul FSC. This was Katie's first-ever trip to nationals and as a senior lady she found it a bit awkward to be competing against skaters she had only seen on television. "I was thrilled just to make it to Nationals, and I had a blast meeting people. It was incredible to skate in an arena like the Gund Arena in front of thousands of people, and it was definitely a great experience!" She says she would like to make it to Nationals again and improve her ranking.

Outside of skating, Katie enjoys dancing, shopping, and e-mailing friends from around the country.

Heidi Pakkala, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC competed in the Championship Ladies division (sp13, fs15, final 15).

Heidi is a seventeen year old senior at Holy Angels School in Richfield, MN.

"This was my first trip ever to Nationals and it was a really good experience for me. My coaches, Kathleen Gazich and Dede Disbrow and I were not exactly planning on qualifying for this year's championships; instead we went into the Midwestern Championships with hope of setting ourselves up to qualify next year. I placed second at Midwestern Sectionals, and from there I tried to prepare myself to compete with the best this country has to offer."

"It was exciting and a bit overwhelming to be competing against skaters she had watched on TV for the past few years, but she enjoyed her opportunity to "live out her dream."

"Practice was a blast! There were many skating fans, judges, coaches and parents who all sit and watch your practices. Everyone is very interested and appreciative of all the skaters, which is helpful when you are out there practicing. The audience makes you want to do your best."

"As for next year, my coaches and I have already began to make improvements. I plan to attend college and also continue training at Braemar. I am looking forward to this coming season and hope to qualify once again for Nationals."

Danny Clausen, St. Paul FSC, competed in the Championship Men division (sp11, fs14, final 13).

Danny is 22 years old and a senior at the University of St. Thomas. He will graduate in May with a degree in Biology. He was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska.

Spending time in the outdoors, camping and fishing are what he most enjoys.

Competing in Cleveland was Danny's second trip to Nationals in the Senior Mens' division. His coaches are Ann Eidson and Ted Engelking.

"My favorite part of the entire week at Nationals has always been the moment, in the main arena, when I take the initial walk from underneath the seats, out to the ice for the very first time. I love to look into the stands, up at the lights and realize that I am actually going to compete at Nationals. This moment captures the anticipation, nerves, excitement, and pride that come along with competing in a National championship. I love it!"

Benjamin Miller, St. Paul FSC, competed in the Junior Men division (sp2, fs3, final 3)

Ben is an 11<sup>th</sup> grader at St. Paul Central High School. Ted Engelking and Ann Eidson have coached him since he was 7 years old. He was drawn to skating in 1988 while watching the National Championships. Ben also received the Chevrolet Scholastic Honor Team Award while at Nationals this year.

"My favorite part of Nationals was getting to see my friends from all over the country, and skating well and winning the bronze medal."

Ben has been chosen to represent the United States this year at the Gardena Spring Trophy, held in Ortisei, Italy!

**Congratulations to these skaters on their successful year!**

# Officially Yours....

*Congratulations to the following  
officials on their recent  
appointments!!*

Cheryl Marker—Gold Test Judge  
Dann Krueger --Senior Competition  
/Synchronized Skating  
Terryl Crabtree—Silver Test Judge  
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## Synchronized Skating Results

Congratulations to the following  
synchronized skating teams who  
competed at the 2000 Chevrolet  
Synchronized Team Skating  
Championships and the 2000  
Midwestern Synchronized Skating  
Championships!

2000 Chevrolet Synchronized  
Skating Championships  
Senior Championships  
Team Braemar/Braemar-City of  
Lakes FSC (sp11th, fs11 final 11)

Adult Championships  
Synchro Panach/FSC of  
Minneapolis 7th  
Midwestern Sectional  
Championships

Juvenile Team  
Team Braemar/Braemar-City of  
Lakes 8<sup>th</sup>

Teen Introductory Team  
Maplewood  
Highsteppers/Maplewood FSC  
Group B 1st, Final 2<sup>nd</sup>

Novice Team  
Team Braemar/Braemar-City of  
Lakes FSC 6<sup>th</sup>

Junior Team  
Sailorettes/Lake Minnetonka FSC  
5<sup>th</sup>

Classic Junior Team  
Maplewood  
Highsteppers/Maplewood FSC 3<sup>rd</sup>

Senior Team  
Synchro Panache/FSC of  
Minneapolis 8<sup>th</sup>

Adult Team  
Synchro Panache/FSC of  
Minneapolis 3<sup>rd</sup>

## More Results... 2000 Midwestern Sectional Championships

Congratulations to the following  
skaters who competed at the 2000

Midwestern Sectional  
Championships, Dec. 8-12 in  
Detroit, Michigan.  
Advancing to the 2000 State Farm  
U. S. Figure Skating Championships  
were:

### SENIOR LADIES

Katie Lee, St. Paul FSC  
Heidi Pakala, Braemar-City of  
Lakes FSC

### SENIOR MEN

Danny Clausen, St. Paul FSC

### JUNIOR MEN

Benjamin Miller, St. Paul FSC

## MIDWESTERN RESULTS

### SENIOR LADIES

Katie Lee, St. Paul FSC-Champion  
(sp2, fs1, final 1)  
Heidi Pakala, Braemar-City of  
Lakes FSC-2<sup>nd</sup> (sp1, fs3, final2)  
Angie Lien, Duluth FSC (sp10)

### SENIOR MEN:

Danny Clausen, St. Paul FSC-4th  
(sp3, fs4, final 4)

### JUNIOR LADIES

Steffie Smith, Eden Prairie FSC-12<sup>th</sup>  
(sp9, fs12, final 12)

### JUNIOR MEN

Benjamin Miller, St. Paul FSC-3<sup>rd</sup>  
(sp3, fs3, final 3)  
Rohene Ward, Starlight Ice Dance  
Club-6<sup>th</sup> (sp8, fs6, final 6)  
Matthew Wesenberg, St. Paul FSC-  
8<sup>th</sup>  
(sp7, fs8, final 8)

### NOVICE LADIES

Courtney Green, Eden Prairie FSC  
12<sup>th</sup> (sp10, fs12, final 12)

## CHAMPIONSHIP ADULT

### MASTERS LADIES

Jill Rumstick, Rochester FSC-6<sup>th</sup>

## CHAMPIONSHIP ADULT GOLD LADIES

Patti Miller, Braemar-City of Lakes  
FSC-2<sup>nd</sup>

Catherine Richardson, Rochester  
FSC-7<sup>th</sup>

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## RESULTS CORRECTIONS

Apologies to the following skaters  
whose results were incorrectly  
reported or inadvertently missed in  
the last Rink Link publication:

### UPPER GREAT LAKES:

Open Juvenile Ladies, Group A  
Brittany Proctor, Roseville FSC-7<sup>th</sup>

Open Juvenile Ladies, Group B  
Elyse Gorham, Brooklyn Park FSC  
-3<sup>rd</sup>

## 2000 MINNESOTA STATE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS:

### Bronze Adult Freeskating

Karla Aplan, Braemar-City of  
Lakes FSC-Champion

## Special Thanks

TCFSA would like to specially  
thank Ginny Liebig, who  
recently retired from the  
position of Central Test Chair  
and also Area Dance Test  
Coordinator. We will miss  
you, Ginny! You are  
wonderful.

TCFSA also would like to  
welcome new Test Chair,  
Kathy Lee, and new Dance  
Test Coordinator, Jenae  
Williams. Please note these  
changes for future  
consolidated test sessions.

# Minnesota Skating Scholarship Update

Awards given in memory of Harris Collins amounted to \$10,200 for this year and were distributed to 18 skaters.

Harris Collins was the creative force behind the Collins Tour of World Figure Skating Champions for 20 years, a friend and advisor to hundreds of skaters, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Skating Scholarship. In addition to the Harris Collins Awards, the Minnesota Skating Scholarship presents an award to those Minnesota skaters who qualify for the U. S. National Championships. This year, awards were given to Danny Clausen, Katie Lee, Heidi Pakkala, and Ben Miller. The Minnesota Skating Scholarship, a 501c3 organization, has received funds totaling over \$13,000 in the last year. Proceeds from fundraisers accounts for 56% of the total; 44% came from individuals and organizations, given either in memory of a loved one's passion for figure skating or to honor specific individuals' contributions to the sport or simply as gifts to skating.

To help Minnesota skaters by making a tax-deductible contribution, please contact:

Anne Klein

Chair/Minnesota Skating  
Scholarship Committee  
612-906-3358

The next fund-raiser sponsored by the Minnesota Skating Scholarship is the 2000 Tom Collins Tour of Champions Reception, May 5, 2000 at the Target Center.

## **DONATIONS...**

**Donations to the Minnesota Skating Scholarship have been received –**

### **In Memory Of :**

**Harris Collins:** Maplewood Highsteppers

**Robert Allen:** Maplewood Highsteppers

**Gil Holmes:** TCFSA

**Bud Fisher:** Mr. & Mrs. Dahlberg

**Gil Holmes:** Mr. & Mrs. Dahlberg

**Kari Thorson:** Roseville FSC

**Gordon Knutson:** Jim & Dede Disbrow

**Bud Fisher:** Jim & Dede Disbrow

### **In Honor Of:**

**Jan Mattson:** Gretchen Wilson

**Bev Arneson:** Kristen Cutler

**Kristen LeGuen's birthday:**

Jim & Joan Swanson

**Tamie Campbell:** John & June Klindworth

**Eleanor Fisher's birthday:**

Bette Snuggerud

**Danny Clausen, Katie Lee, Heidi Pakkala, Angie Lien, Ben Miller, Matt Wesenberg, Rohene Ward, Steffie Smith, Tanya Traut**

**Courtney Green:** Jim Disbrow

**Danny Clausen, Katie Lee,**

**Heidi Pakkala, Ben Miller:**

Jim Disbrow

**Heidi Pakkala, Midwesterns:**

Kathleen Gazich & Dede Disbrow

**Heidi Pakkala, Nationals:**

Kathleen Gazich & Dede Disbrow

**Darlene Guy, Judithe Heffron,**

**Deb Hutchinson, Bruce Kivi,**

**LaVonne O'Brien, Betty**

**Rivard:** Roseville FSC

**Anne Klein:** Sport Quest

**Kristen Cutler, Jenni**

**Johnson, Pat St. Peter:**

Braemar City of Lakes FSC

## 2000 Tom Collins Champions on Ice Show and Reception

Because of your support at last year's Tom Collins Tour of World and Olympic Champions Reception, our Scholarship Awards to Minnesota Skaters has been a success.

We would like to thank you by offering you the first chance at tickets for the 2000 Tom Collins Champions on Ice Show and Reception. This special Minnesota Skating Scholarship Event will be held on Friday, May 5, 2000, at Target Center. The Reception with the skaters will be at 6:00pm.

Ticket cost for reception and show is \$100 per person. Reception only (if you have already purchased show tickets) is \$50. Checks may be made payable to Minnesota Skating Scholarship and mailed to:

Ann Eidson  
4604 Wooddale Ave.  
Edina, Minnesota 55424  
(612-922-4722)

Your check will act as your reservation. Further information will follow in the early spring. As always, we wish to Thank You for your continued support of the Harris Collins Awards which benefit Minnesota skaters.

Minnesota Skating Scholarship  
Committee Chair: Anne Klein

Reception Co-Chairs:

Janet Allen

Ann Eidson

Kathleen Gazich

# Twin City Figure Skating Gold Rush

The USFSA Gold Tests represent many years of hard work and commitment by a skater. Taking one's gold Freeskating, Figures, Pairs, or Dance tests is an accomplishment of which they should be very proud! These skaters are to be commended for their years of commitment, dedication, and determination.

Congratulations to the following skaters who recently passed a gold test!

.....  
**Airina Rodrigues,**  
**St. Paul FSC**

Airina Rodrigues passed her gold freestyle test on January 14, 2000, under the coaching guidance of Debbie Karl.

Airina has plans to continue skating competitively and looks forward to competing at the senior level. She is working toward her gold medal in ice dancing, and is considering ice dancing competitively.

Outside of skating, Airina is a very successful student at Breck School. She is a senior and is the class valedictorian. Recently, she was named a National Merit Semi-finalist and a National Merit Hispanic Scholar. She has been accepted at both Harvard and McGill Colleges, but has not made a final decision at the time of this publication.

Airina believes that skating has helped her to achieve her academic goals by teaching her time management skills and a strong work ethic. "I would like to thank my coach, Debbie, for all of the patience and help she has given me and the St. Paul FSC for being a great place to train and for the encouragement given to help skaters attain their goals." Congratulations, Airina!!

.....  
**Jill Ewald,**  
**St. Paul FSC**

Jill Ewald is a member of the St. Paul FSC who trained at Sport Quest Skating Academy. She passed her gold freeskating test on August 11, 1999.

Jill is a 19-year-old college sophomore who attended the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She did an exchange fall semester to the University of Alaska-Anchorage, and spring semester will go to California State University-Fresno. Her major is geology.

Jill continues to skate for her own enjoyment and also is coaching during the summer months. Jill also enjoys rollerblading and downhill skiing. Congratulations, Jill!!

.....  
**Gretchen Hoppmann,**  
**Braemar-City of Lakes**  
**FSC**

Gretchen Hoppmann passed her gold freeskating test on Dec. 8, 1999, under the coaching guidance of Janet Nelson.

Gretchen plans to continue skating when time permits and hopes to become a figure skating judge, "giving something back to the sport."

Gretchen is a 16 year old junior at Edina High School. Her busy schedule includes choir, participating in track this spring, and cross-country next fall. She is an A honor roll student who is interested in the medical field as she moves toward her college career.

Congratulations, Gretchen!!  
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**Andrea Medcalf**  
**Roseville, FSC**

Andrea Medcalf is a 17 year old, Minnehaha Academy Senior who passed her gold freeskating test on Dec. 1, 1999, under the coaching guidance of Mary Lou and Liz Gereby and Kelly Benzinger.

Andrea has been skating since the age of 5. She loves competing at out of town skating competitions and performing in ice shows. Among her favorite memories of skating is performing annually at the December Holiday Ice Shows at Edinborough Park in Edina. She also enjoyed her summer training experiences at Ice Castle International Training Center at Lake Arrowhead, California.

Her future skating goals include continuing to coach at the Roseville ISI

Skating School program and possibly doing more private lessons. She will also be a soloist (in April) for the Roseville ice show.

Outside of skating, Andrea also enjoys tennis and other outdoor activities and sports. She enjoys spending time with her friends and supporting school athletics. College is in her educational future.

Andrea appreciates the encouragement she receives from family and friends who have been by her side during her skating career.

Congratulations, Andrea!

.....  
**Heidi Pakkala**  
**Braemar-City of Lakes**  
**FSC**

Heidi Pakkala passed her gold freeskating test on June 28, 1999. Her coaches are Kathleen Gazich and Dede Disbrow.

Heidi attends school at the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield, Minnesota. She is a senior this year, with plans to attend college this fall. Outside of skating she loves spending time with her friends, and enjoys swimming, fishing, boating, skiing (water and snow), golf and movies.

Heidi began skating at a young age. She became interested in the sport while watching her two brothers play hockey and her sister skate at the figure skating club sessions. She had early success at competition and knew she loved competing. She competed at the National Championships this year as a senior lady. She is the 2000 Midwestern Sectional silver medallist. She is working toward next year, with the goal of returning to Nationals. She enjoys setting challenging, yet attainable goals for herself and says the best thing she has learned is to have a positive attitude and to expect success.

Heidi loves going to the rink. "Skating has been the highlight of my life," she says, adding, "I have met some of my best friends at the rink, whether skaters, coaches or parents. Each in their own way, they have encouraged me to achieve my goals. Thank you all for helping me fulfill my dreams!" Congratulations, Heidi!!

## Spring/Summer Workshops and Seminars...

### Annie's Edges Workshop

Thursday/Friday/  
Saturday

May 4/5/6, 2000

(Thursday and Friday Sessions will be held after school)

Hosted by the St. Paul Figure Skating Club at:

Richfield Ice Arena  
646 East 66th Street  
Richfield, Minnesota

Give yourself "the edge" before that next moves in the field test. Explore the edge - the building block of Moves in the Field - under the direction of Anne Schelter. ANNIE'S EDGES is a stroking program developed to improve edge technique. The classes consist of patterns, exercises and games, and are suitable for all skaters.

Cost is \$90.

To sign up, contact:

Lexie Kastner  
651-998-1479

or visit our website at  
[www.stpaulfsc.org](http://www.stpaulfsc.org)

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### Dan Hollander's Skate Like a Pro Workshop

Saturday, June 3 is the scheduled date for this workshop, hosted by the Lake Minnetonka and Eden Prairie Figure Skating Clubs.

Registration forms and fee deadline is April 10, 2000.

Cost of the workshop is \$125. For further information contact:

Karen Gilbertson  
612-471-9089  
or Maggie Asby  
612-937-1840

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## Braemar-City of Lakes FSC To Host Summer Figure Skating Clinic

Braemar-City of Lakes FSC is hosting its second annual Summer Figure Skating Clinic on June 16, 17, and 18, 2000. The purpose of the clinic is to provide local skaters the opportunity to experience training techniques used by elite-level skaters and to provide knowledge and resources to enhance their development as athletes. Participants will work with national level instructors, including Diane Miller, Diana Ronayne and Katie Baxter, in skating technique as well as choreography, moves in the field, and fitness.

The three day Summer Figure Skating clinic is intended for those skaters who have, at a minimum, passed their pre-juvenile freeskating test and have competed at least once at the Pre-Juvenile level or above. Cost to participate in the clinic is \$300.

A one-day Mini-Clinic will also be offered on Sat., June 17. The Mini Clinic will be offered in two formats: 1) Freestyle-jumps and spins (must have passed at least one USFSA test) @0 Edge work, footwork, moves in the field, ice dance (no USFSA test required). Cost for the Mini-Clinic is \$100.

For more information, contact Kelly Guzik (612)449-9456, or e-mail [momcat6@ibm.net](mailto:momcat6@ibm.net). You may also visit the Braemar website @

[www.braemar.org](http://www.braemar.org)

to view a complete brochure.

## Lake Minnetonka FSC To Host Ice Dance Clinic

Lake Minnetonka FSC will host an Ice Dance Clinic on Saturday, May 13 from 8-11:30am at the Plymouth Ice Center.

Fee for the clinic is \$45. The clinic is open to all TCFSA ice dancers through silver. The clinic will feature 3 sessions: on-ice (technique), off ice (expression and posture), and on ice (critique of dances by local ice dancing judges).

Registration forms due by April 15. For more information contact:

Karen Gilbertson  
612-471-9089

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Join us for  
Skate St. Paul  
at a new location  
Richfield Ice Arena  
646 East 66th Street  
Richfield, Minnesota  
July 14-15-16, 2000

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*Watch for  
information about  
Minnesota State  
2001 to be held  
September 8-10,  
2000!!*

## ***Upcoming Events...***

### **APRIL**

- 5-8 1st WORLD  
SYNCHRONIZED  
SKATING  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
(hosted by TCFSA,  
Mariucci Arena,  
University of Minnesota,  
MPLS, MN)
- 29 FSC of Minneapolis  
Annual Ice Show
- 29 Richfield Annual Ice Show,  
under the direction of St. Paul  
FSC
- 29-30 FSC of Bloomington, Annual  
Ice Show

### **MAY**

- 4-6 *Annie's Edges Workshop*  
hosted by St. Paul FSC  
(see inside for details)
- 5-6 Brooklyn Park FSC  
Annual Ice Show
- 13 Lake Minnetonka FSC  
*Ice Dancing Clinic* (see  
inside for details)  
USFSA Governing Council

Rink Link  
%Marlys Dean  
1925 Safari Trail  
Eagan, MN 55122

### **JUNE**

- 3 *Skate Like a Pro*  
*Workshop/co-hosts: Lake*  
*Minnetonka FSC & Eden*  
*Prairie FSC (see inside for*  
*details)*
- 16-18 *Braemar-City of Lakes Training*  
*Camp (see informational article*  
*inside)*
- 24-25 Star of the North Games,  
hosted by the city of Roseville

### **JULY**

- 14-16 Skate St. Paul (at a new  
location) Richfield Ice Arena

## **2000 World Synchronized Skating Championships**

There is still time to buy tickets to the World Synchronized Skating Championships to be held at the University of Minnesota's Mariucci Arena, Minneapolis. The championships are April 7 and 8 with practices beginning April 5.

This first time ever event is sponsored by the Twin City Figure Skating Association. Teams from around the world will compete in this championship of synchronized skating. This is an opportunity to view synchronized skating at its best! Don't miss out! Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

## **World Synchronized Skating Volunteers Needed**

There are still opportunities to volunteer during the 2000 World Synchronized Skating Championships! If you would like to be a part of this first-time ever world championship, please contact:

Cheri Moen  
651-770-0880

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