



Rink Link

March 2001



The Celebration of Champions

by Courtney Green

The second annual Celebration of Champions was held in the Augsburg Arena on January 7, 2001. This event featured Minnesota State champions and Sectional and National competitors. Many came to watch these skaters perform. Among those performing were Jillian Asby, the Junior National Intermediate Ladies' Bronze medalist, Kristen Sheaffer, the Midwestern Novice Ladies' Champion, Rohene Ward, the Midwestern Junior Men's Champion, and Heidi Pakkala, the Upper Great Lakes Regional Senior Ladies' Bronze medalist.

The Celebration of Champions started last year after the annual Minnesota Ice Symphony announced it was no longer going to continue. The TCFSA feels this is a great event that can showcase some of the Twin Cities' top skaters. The Celebration of Champions was sponsored by the TCFSA and hosted by the Eden Prairie Figure Skating Club, the winners of the Wakefield Team Trophy. Thank you to those who made this a success. We hope to see you there next year!



The "Pulse" of Nationals

by Danny Clausen

The "pulse" of the U.S. Championships – if you are fortunate enough to have been involved with one you know what I am talking about. It is an energy that is felt in every vein of Nationals and is created by a mix of excitement, anticipation, nerves and awe – the excitement of being one of the best skaters in the country, the anticipation of knowing the possibilities the next few days hold, the nerves of performing via satellite before a world wide audience, and the awe of realizing that "Wow – this is really it!!" To me, standing next to the ice in the main arena, with its bright lights, "kiss and cry", television cameras and scoreboard, is one of the best moments at Nationals. Standing there, looking around, the "pulse" consumes me and makes the rest of the world disappear. For those few minutes, everything is perfect.



The Champion For Skating Award

by Sylvia Olson

In figure skating, volunteering is so pervasive it's sometimes invisible. Let's stop taking each other for granted and say, 'Thanks!'

1998 WFSC Volunteer

The Champion for Skating Award (TCFSA Trophy) was created in 1993 to recognize sustained, selfless service to the sport of eligible figure skating in Minnesota. It is an inclusive award and has been bestowed on officials, organizers, parents, skating enthusiasts and combinations thereof.

The most important qualification is a demonstrated devotion to service. In nominating, think about these possibilities:

- If your club selects an outstanding volunteer each year, nominate that volunteer for the TCFSA Trophy.
- Nominate someone who is always reliable in a pinch — or who always stays late to clean up.
- Nominate someone who is proactive in finding opportunities and creative solutions.
- Nominate someone who is a great communicator or manager in everything they do.
- Nominate someone who vocally, consistently supports all skaters, rejoices in their victories, empathizes in their defeats.

Anybody meeting following criteria can be nominated. Everybody can nominate.

- ◆ Person with eligible status
- ◆ Directly or indirectly involved with own club, TCFSA or any other amateur, USFSA sanctioned/affiliated activity for a minimum of five years
- ◆ Minnesota resident
- ◆ Mixture of "high visibility" and sustained "low profile" involvement in figure skating activities
- ◆ Volunteer characteristics to include: Time devoted, Talents contributed, Demonstrated leadership, Spirit of cooperation

This is your chance to honor your favorite champion for skating!

**THE CHAMPION FOR SKATING AWARD
NOMINATION FORM**

NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE ZIP _____

PHONE _____ **FAX** _____ **EMAIL** _____

YEARS INVOLVED IN SKATING _____ **NOMINEE'S TCFSA CLUB** _____

PAST ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH FIGURE SKATING (BE SPECIFIC ABOUT POSITIONS HELD):

PRESENT ACTIVITIES (BE SPECIFIC ABOUT POSITIONS HELD):

WHY I FEEL THIS CANDIDATE SHOULD RECEIVE THE TCFSA TROPHY:

(Please use another sheet if more room is needed.)

Return to:

Marlys Larson, President, TCFSA, 4432 Fondell Drive, Edina, MN 55435

Or you can complete this form on-line at tcfsa.org



**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF
HELPING MINNESOTA SKATERS**



A 10th Anniversary Benefit Reception with Scott Hamilton as the honored guest was held before his Stars on Ice farewell tour performance on February 14, 2001. The light supper buffet and autograph opportunity with Scott, Kristi Yamaguchi, Jenni Meno & Todd Sand, and Renee Roca was enjoyed by all who attended. Proceeds from the event will be used to fund the Harris Collins Awards.

Harris Collins Awards

Fifteen Minnesota skaters were the recipients of \$9,200 in Harris Collins Awards this year. In addition, the Minnesota Skating Scholarship National Championship Achievement Awards were given to the 6 Minnesota skaters who competed at Nationals in Boston and the 3 Minnesota skaters who competed at Junior Nationals.

The Minnesota Skating Scholarship gratefully acknowledges contributions:

From:

Twin City Figure Skating Association
Paula Larson
WEM Foundation

In honor of:

Test Session Judges - Rosville FSC
Test Session Judges - Braemar City of Lakes FSC
Test Session Judges - The Heights FSC

Test Session Judges - FSC of Bloomington

Test Session Judges - TCFSA



OFFICIAL UPDATE

USFSA APPOINTMENTS

Sectional Synchronized Referee

Dann Krueger

Silver Singles/Pairs Test Judge

Nancy Kaufmann, Bridgit Ryan, Wendy Meck

USFSA OFFICIALS ON THE GO.....

TO REGIONALS

Eastern Great Lakes

Pat St. Peter – Chief Referee

Dann Krueger

Southwesterns

Nancy Bizzano, Jacquie Cassity

Kristin Arneson Cutler

Jennifer Marker Johnson, Sara Kastner

Upper Great Lakes

Bette Snuggerud – Chief Referee

Janet Allen, Beverly Arneson

Shirley Hage, Marlys Larson

Gretchen Wilson

TO SECTIONALS

Easterns

Pat St. Peter

Midwesterns

Jennifer Marker Johnson

Sara Kastner

Synchro Midwesterns

Shirley Hage

Dann Krueger

TO JUNIOR NATIONALS

Carolyn Marker – Chief Accountant

Tamie Campbell

Shirley Hage

Bette Snuggerud

TO SENIOR NATIONALS

Nancy Bizzano

Carolyn Marker

TO INTERNATIONALS

Anne Klein - *Team Leader*

Junior Grand Prix, Kiev Ukraine

Tamie Campbell - *Team Leader & Judge*

Ondrej Nepela, Bratislava Slovakia

Nancy Bizzano - *Team Leader*

Trophee Lalique , Paris France
Janet Allen - Judge
Four Continent Championships, Salt Lake City Utah



In the Spotlight...

Anne Klein



by Sara Kastner

What would it be like having a world famous figure skater stay at your house? Ask Anne Klein, because when she was a little girl, she was lucky enough to have Sonja Henie stay as a guest in her home. How cool! Can you imagine the star of "Sun Valley Serenade" in your very own house! Anne's father was a figure skater and as a result, Anne, her two sisters, and brother were all members of the Figure Skating Club of Minneapolis. Miss Henie stayed with the family while she was in town performing as a guest star in the club's annual ice carnival.

Anne received her first judging appointment in 1978 and has been involved in many areas of the sport since. Very important to her locally is her involvement with the Minnesota Skating Scholarship. Founded by Bobby Mecay (former skater and owner of the Calhoun Beach Club) in 1991, his goal was to hold an event during the week of Nationals to reunite former skaters and raise money to benefit local skaters. It was a great success and many events have been held since. Anne was co-chair of Nationals and in turn became a part of the Minnesota Skating Scholarship.

Anne says her most memorable times in skating include hosting both the 1991 National Championships and the 1998 World Championships in Minneapolis. Also, having served as a team leader to many international skating events for the USFSA.

In her spare time Anne enjoys spending time with her husband, Dick, whom she met while performing in a college theater production, their three children, and eight grandchildren. She also gardens, skis, travels, plays bridge, and does aerobics at the Marsh. She is one energized lady and you can see it in the way she

enthusiastically gives of her time to the Twin Cites figure skating community.

Thank you for all your hard work Anne!



In the Spotlight...

Chip Rauth



by Sara Kastner

You've just arrived at the competition. What is one of the first things you do? Probably head to the registration desk to check in and hand in your music. Ever stop to think where this tape, CD, or as it was many years ago, 78 RPM record goes after you turn it in?

We are very fortunate to have the National Chair of the USFSA music committee as one of our local officials. His name is Chip Rauth. As national chair, Chip oversees the music people and announcers assigned to all qualifying and other national and world level competitions. He is in charge of all music equipment, ranging from cassette and CD players, to four digital recording studios brought to Nationals and other major events by moving vans!

Chip became involved in skating as a skater, then a judge. As time went on, Chip became more involved in the music side. The rest is history. In the past 30 years, Chip has done 10 Nationals, 4 Worlds and Olympics, and countless regional, sectional, and local competitions. His favorite part of the job is the fantastic rink side seat he has at the events. The drawback, the long hours he puts in. The music committee usually arrives at the rink at 6:00 AM and is there until 11:00 PM. That's a long day!

Outside the arena, Chip works as an electrical engineer and spends time with his wife Mannelle watching football games, rebuilding sports cars, and remodeling rooms in their home.

Thank you Chip for all of your hard work and dedication to making our music sound so wonderful!



An update to last month's spotlight –

In the February issue of **Inside Triathlon** magazine, Betty Meck was ranked 4th in Duathlons and 8th in Triathlons in her age group. Congratulations Betty!!



2001

Midwestern Championship Results

Senior Men

Danny Clausen (4,2,2nd)

Senior Ladies

Katie Lee (2,4,4th)

Heidi Pakkala (8,7,8th)

Junior Men

Rohene Ward (3,1,1st)

Ben Miller (1,2,2nd)

Matt Wesenberg (6,5,5th)

Junior Dance

Kim Cole (3,3,3,3rd)

Novice Ladies

Kristen Sheaffer (3,1,1st)



2001

Synchro Midwestern Championship Results

Intermediate Group A

Rhythm and Blades, Rochester FSC 8th

Intermediate Group B

Maplewood Highsteppers, Maplewood FSC 7th

Preliminary

Team Braemar, Braemar City of Lakes FSC 8th

Teen Introductory Group A

Maplewood Highsteppers, Maplewood FSC 2nd

Juvenile

Synchro Panache, FSC of Minneapolis 6th

Team Braemar, Braemar City of Lakes FSC 9th

Novice

Team Braemar, Braemar City of Lakes FSC 7th

Synchro Panache, FSC of Minneapolis 8th

Adult

Synchro Panache, FSC of Minneapolis 3rd

Junior Classic

Maplewood Highsteppers, Maplewood FSC 3rd

Sailorettes, Lake Minnetonka FSC 7th

Senior

Team Braemar, Braemar FSC (7,7,7th)

Synchro Panache, FSC of Minneapolis (8,8,8th)



2001

Junior National Championship Results

Intermediate Ladies

Jillian Asby

First Round: Group C – 1st

Final Round (7,2,3rd)

Juvenile Boys

Paul Wood

First Round: Group C – 3rd

Final Round – 8th

Michael Chau

First Round: Group B – 11th



2001

Senior National Championship Results

Senior Men

Danny Clausen (10,12,11th)

Senior Ladies

Katie Lee (14,13,14th)

Junior Men

Ben Miller (1,2,2nd)

Rohene Ward (7,5,6th)

Junior Dance

Kim Cole (12,12,12,12th)

Novice Ladies

Kristen Sheaffer (5,4,4th)



2001

Synchro National Championship Results

Adult

Synchro Panache, FSC of Minneapolis 7th



2001 Junior Worlds

Sofia Bulgaria

Ben Miller

Qualifying B-6th, Finals-15th



GOLD OLISTS

Vikki Orwoll Dalquist
Rochester FSC

Vikki Dahlquist passed her Gold Dance Test on October 26 under the coaching of Ari Leib. She passed her Gold Figure Test in 1981 and her Gold Freestyle Test in 1985. Vikki has been skating since she was 4 years old. She trained with Carole and David Shulman in Rochester as well as Pieter Kollen and Jack Courtney in Colorado Springs. Her dance coaches have included Graham Payne and Ari Lieb.

Vikki plans to learn some international dances and always continue to skate. She is learning more about teaching ice dancing as well as just doing those good edges and turns which apply to all types of skating.

PSA Master rated in Moves in the Field and Group, Senior rated in Figures and Freestyle, Vikki has been teaching skating for 18 years. She currently coaches singles, ice dance and synchronized skating for the Rochester FSC. Vikki hopes to someday build a national-level synchronized team.

Kristin Odegaard
St. Paul FSC

Kristin Odegaard, a senior at St. Anthony High School, passed her Gold Freestyle Test on January 9th under the coaching of Heather Miner. She became the first skater to pass the Gold test in the new Depot rink. She plans on continuing to skate and intends to compete at a Senior lady at Upper Great Lakes Regional Championships. Kristin would also like to do some coaching.

Away from the rink, Kristin has two Shelties, Jazzy and Suddo which keep her entertained. School activities such as Concert Band, S.A.D.D., and Speech Team keep Kristin very busy. Off to college next year, Kristin plans on pursuing a degree in Business/Public Relations.

Melinda Hallstrom

St. Paul FSC

Melinda Hallstrom, a junior at Woodbury Senior High, passed her Gold Freeskating Test on March 7. She thanks her coaches, Sandy Reinhardt-Wittman and Debbie Karl, whose support and encouragement enabled Melinda to reach her goal. She plans to continue to skate at the Milwaukee Road Depot with the St. Paul FSC and would like to pass the Canadian Gold Freeskating Test.

Outside the rink, Melinda has taken piano lessons for 13 years and enjoys playing very much. Her plans for the future include going to college.

Matt Wesenberg

Braemar City of Lakes FSC

by Marguerite Pakkala

Matt Wesenberg began skating at the age of three and started competing at the age of eight. He is coached by Kathleen Gazich and Dede Disbrow. He passed his senior freestyle test on December 13, 2000 achieving his last goal in skating.

Through the years he has traveled to many competitions and has represented this area twice at the Junior Olympics and twice at the U.S. National Championships. He has enjoyed the competition and says he was motivated by skaters in his rink as he was growing up namely Heather Johnson at Bloomington FSC and he and Heidi Pakkala always challenged each other. Kristi Yamaguchi is his favorite skater because she continues to strive for excellence.

Matt has made many friends throughout the country when traveling to compete. He has held Minnesota State titles and has received the Jimmy Disbrow Award and this year was an honorable mention at the U.S. National Championships for the Scholastic Scholarship Award. He is a senior at Jefferson Senior High School in Bloomington and has applied and been accepted at Purdue University and Boulder University. He has also applied to

the Naval Academy and is waiting to make his decision pending the outcome of the results from the Naval Academy.

Matt is also skilled at water skiing and likes hanging around with friends. He likes the color green and listens to the Dave Matthews Band and his favorite movie is Gone In 60 Seconds. Matt does plan to do a little coaching while in college and may continue his skating experience after college by becoming a judge.

Katherine Hilleque

Burnsville MN-ValleyFSC

by Marguerite Pakkala

Katherine Lane Hilleque, known to us as Katie passed her gold test on May 25, 1999. She started skating when she was five and has been coached by Loni Keenan ever since. She enjoyed competing at the local competitions as well as at UGL.

Katie has many warm memories of growing up as a skater. She received the Harriet Hield Norgren award at her club, an award that is voted on by member skaters, for dedication to the sport and love for skating. She also is the holder of a State Title as well as other competition trophies.

Katie graduated in 1999 from Burnsville High School where she was a member of the homecoming court. Currently she is a sophomore at Eau Claire University where she is pursuing her career in Kinesiology, which is an exercise science. Katie hopes to use her degree to work with skaters.

Katie will tell you that the warm memories of Sun Valley summers, skating under the sun brings nothing but joy to her heart. Skating has taught her to pursue and never give up. She also says that the most rewarding experience is never changing coaches during her skating career.

Her future as she sees it now will be to coach and work at a training facility. She, like many others found the cold ice rink a very warm place to be.

Alyssa Kane

Braemar City of Lakes FSC
by Marguerite Pakkala

She is known as "Lyss" to her family and friends, we know her as Alyssa Kane. Alyssa passed her gold freestyle test on December 13, 2000. She began skating at the age of eight years and is coached by Joan Goodley.

The skater Alyssa most admires as a role model is Michelle Kwan. Alyssa is a 10th grader at the Home School Academy and would like to become a sports doctor. She feels that this would be a way of still contributing to the sport of figure skating as an adult. She has also expressed some interest in trial judging.

Alyssa has hung up her freestyle skates and is now in pursuit to obtain gold in dance. She has thus far achieved the silvers and is training with Linda Davis and Ari Lieb.

When she is not in school or at the rink, you will find her hanging with her friends. Her favorite movie is Ever After. She says that skating has taught her self confidence and self discipline. The memory of placing second at UGL in 1998 as a juvenile, and winning Minnesota State Championship as a juvenile the same year will remain a golden memory.

Emily Anne Carlson

Braemar City of Lakes FSC
by Marguerite Pakkala

Emily Anne Carlson enjoyed passing her gold test at the central test session on November 1, 2000 while surrounded by both her parents, her younger brother, grandmother and a host of friends from school. Celebrating afterwards she enjoyed lunch with her family, friends and her two coaches Kathleen Gazich and Dede Disbrow. She has been skating since the age of five.

Emily is a senior at Academy of Holy Angels and is a member of the National Honor Society. She plans to go to college but has yet to decide exactly where that college

experience will take place. As a skater she has admired Michelle Kwan. She feels lucky to have met Michelle at the Minnesota Ice Symphony Show and at the Campell Soup skating event that was held in our area. Warm memories include the spring show and winning the McCandless Memorial Trophy last year as a junior. She also was awarded the Sports Trophy 2000 at the Eau Claire competition last year.

She would like to become a judge someday. Skating has taught her self confidence, the ability to perform in front of people, hard work and dedication. She will fondly remember friends made at the rink. When time permits she enjoys the sport of running and relaxes with a good book. She also will perform in the spring play at school this year and for the first time was able to be a member of the dance team at school.

The USFSA Gold Tests represent many years of hard work and commitment by a skater and TCFSA would like to feature all member club skaters passing Gold Tests. Please submit information on skaters passing the Gold Freeskating, Figures, Pairs or Dance test by the end of September, January, or April to: TCFSA Rink Link, %Lexie Kastner, P O Box 296, Deerwood MN 56444

Get an "edge" on the competition – and experience skating at the Depot at the same time! Register for

Annie's Edges

Thursday/Friday/Saturday
May 3-4-5, 2001

hosted by the St. Paul Figure Skating Club at The Milwaukee Depot. To obtain an application, send a self addressed stamped envelope to Lexie Kastner, P O Box 296, Deerwood MN 56444 or download from our website at www.stpaulfsc.org

Braemar to Host Summer Skating Clinic featuring Gerry and Debbie Lane,

Kerry Leitch, and Kristan Lowery

June 15, 16, and 17, 2001

Minimum requirement: passed Pre-Juvenile free skating test with at least one competition at the Pre-Juvenile level or above.

Cost - \$300.

Mini-Clinic Sunday, June 17

No tests are required

Cost - \$100.

For more information, contact Kelly Guzik at (763) 449-9456 or e-mail momcat6@attglobal.net.

Reflections.....

by Bridgit Ryan

Do I belong here? Do I know what I'm doing? What if I mess up?

These are all questions that were racing through my mind as I sat at on the platform ready to trial my first regional competition. It was a strange feeling; I had skated in many regional competitions in my career, however as a trial judge I felt less in control than I did as a skater.

Despite the nervous butterflies, trialing at Southwesterns in Dallas, TX this past year was a great opportunity. Not only did I get to watch excellent skating and meet new people, I was able to learn a great deal from the judges who facilitated the "trial program". These judges, each with their own respect for the sport, were from all over the country. Throughout the week, the judges helped educate the trial judges by holding critiques after the events. In the critiques, we discussed the differences between how the trial judges ranked the event and how the official panel did. We also were able to breakdown the different aspects involved in being a competitive judge including:

marking, deductions, and the difference in the technical and presentation marks. By having different judges lead the critiques we were able to learn the different judging styles each entertain.

Although skaters and judges are on opposite sides of the boards, when it comes to a competition they both have a job to do! Just as skaters train to better their jumps and spins, judges must train to improve accuracy of marking events.

Reflections.....

by Sara Kastner

Ten seconds. That is approximately how long you have as a trial judge to hand in your "chit" after the skater is finished. What is a "chit" you might ask? It is the piece of paper on which you record your mark and hand in to the "chit-taker." And why ten seconds? Because your mark has to be in before the "real" judges marks are read. Now imagine this, Michelle Kwan has just skated at the 2001 National Championships, it is your job to give her a mark. It was my job this year in Boston as I was selected from the Midwest Section to be a trial judge at the

National championships. As a trial judge, you judge the event and your scores are compared to the actual judging panel. The deviations (if any and, hopefully, they are few!) are figured. Following the event, a debrief is held with the JETS (Judges Education and Training Subcommittee) leaders to discuss the event, the results, and how you as a trial judge determined the outcome. This process was nothing new; it is the standard process by which one receives a first appointment and moves up the judging ranks. What was different was that THIS was Nationals! And I can honestly say it was one of the best experiences I've ever had. It was an extremely busy week, the open marking was stressful, but the debriefs enlightening, and the skating wonderful to see and judge in person. I met many new people and judges from all over the country. I learned much from this experience and I know I am a better judge because of it.

The next step is to continue judging local competitions, test sessions, qualifying events, and hope that I have the chance to trial at

Nationals again. Eventually when my monitor (a judge who helps you track your progress and apply for appointments) decides it's time, I will apply for my National appointment. It will be an exciting time until then, filled with many more learning experiences.

If you are interested in becoming a trial judge, contact the test chair at your club. The Twin Cities is a great place to be an "up and coming" official. We have a wealth of talented officials in this area that are great role models and resources! It is also a fantastic way to contribute your time and give back to the sport that has given you years of enjoyment.

Share your  questions/observations
Send to sara.kastner@fallon.com or
2011 Emerson Ave S #1, Minneapolis
MN 55405

The TCFSA Rink Link is a triennial publication mailed to members in October, March and June. It is also available at www.tcfsa.org under "Other Items". Please submit information/articles by the end of the month preceding mailing to: TCFSA Rink Link, %Lexie Kastner, P O Box 296, Deerwood MN 56444 or lekastner@aol.com

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