



Rink Link

June 2002

2003

Minnesota State

By Dann Krueger

The Rochester Figure Skating Club is hosting the 2003 Minnesota State Figure Skating Championship on Friday, September 6th, 2002 to Sunday September 8th, 2002. The competition will be held at the Rochester Recreation Center, 21 Elton Hills Drive NW, Rochester.

One of the goals of the Minnesota State Championships is to prepare skaters for the upcoming qualifying competition season. To accomplish this, Minnesota State is run like a Regional competition. It includes such special features as 6 minute warm-ups for Juvenile and above, Regional-size skating groups, open marking for Junior and Senior events, and posting of marks for all events. This competition is great preparation for the officials as well!

At the competition, our new Minnesota State Champions will be crowned. Besides securing their place in Minnesota skating history, these champions will also be celebrated at the annual Twin City Figure Skating Association banquet in September. Additionally, the Minnesota State Champions will be featured along with our Sectional, National and International competitors at the "Celebration of Champions" in February 2003.

I look forward to seeing all skaters, and their families, friends and fans at Minnesota State.



2002 USFSA GOVERNING COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS!

TCFSA was proud to have hosted the 2002 USFSA Governing Council Meeting held May 6-12th, 2002 at the Radisson South hotel in Bloomington, MN.

Lisa Venne, chair of the TCFSA organizing committee for 2002 USFSA Governing Council, would like to thank all of the volunteers.

Special thanks to:

Š Arnie Schmidt, the Twin City Synergy Board & friends, who stuffed over 800 bags for the delegates

Š Marlys Larson who coordinated greeters at the airport

Š Marion Curry who arranged greeters for the Saturday evening festivities

Š Lynne Zappetillo who arranged the hotel hospitality

Š Karen Madlock, from the Minneapolis FSC and the Minneapolis Convention & Visitors Bureau, who helped with the Board of Directors' dinner

Š Joel Zimmerman who did such a fine job emceeing on Saturday evening

Š Elizabeth Harty who helped with the festivities Saturday evening and much, much more.

The event was a great success!

Received from
Phyllis Howard,
USFSA President

Now that the dust has settled a bit, I just wanted to tell you and the members of the Twin City Figure Skating Association what a nice job you did hosting the Governing Council. My thanks to every one and especially to Lisa Venne for all her hard work.

As you know, the entire week can be somewhat stressful for those of us involved in trying to run the various meetings. Needless to say, we all want to be sure that the Board and Club Delegates feel that their investment of time and money has been worthwhile. So it is especially satisfying when everything seems to go so well. The hotel was a good choice and made meeting arrangements easy. And what marvelous entertainment on Saturday night! Those that did not attend missed a real treat.

I also want to especially thank you for the priceless Lenox music figurine. I am just delighted and have put it in a very special place. I didn't open it in Minneapolis so it was a marvelous surprise when it arrived here. Thank you again for everything. The USFSA seems to come back to Minnesota so many times – and for good reason.



**Supporting Minnesota Skaters
since 1991**

Since its inception, the Minnesota Skating Scholarship has distributed \$90,000 to support Minnesota Skaters. Funds are raised through donations and fundraising special events.

Make your reservations now for tickets to the 2003 Champions On Ice Tour and Minnesota Skating Scholarship Buffet/Reception with Skaters. Send your name, address and number attending with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

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Minneapolis MN 55410-1040

The Minnesota Skating Scholarship gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

From :

Bob Mecay
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In Memory Of:

Jeanne Wind:
Burnsville MN Valley FSC

Jeanne Wind: TCFSA

Lyman Wakefield Sr.:
Anne & Dick Klein

Meryl Lavintman: TCFSA

Rodney Wong: TCFSA

Dick Vraa: Robert Vraa

Lorenz Miller:
Minnetonka Ice Arena and LMFSC
Jacqueline Regan, John M. Paul,
Gretchen Robideau, Kristine
MacDonald, Carol A. Timm, Barb M.
Denslow, Barbara L. Castaneda,
James Hunting, Michelle M. Lacey,
Stephen & Robyn Helland, Karen Zieg
Meck, Harvey & Karen Robideau

"Skating was a big part of Lorenz's full life. As a matter of fact, he skated for the last time just over a year ago (he wanted to be able to say he skated until he was 90 years old) and he would be pleased to know that this gift might give another young skater a little more time on the ice."



**OFFICIAL UPDATE
USFSA APPOINTMENTS**

National Competition Judge

Patricia St. Peter

National Competition Judge

Sara Kastner

Gold Test Judge

Terryl Crabtree

Bronze Test Judge

Gina McKusick



**MINNESOTA USFSA
OFFICIALS ON THE GO.....**

National Collegiates

Newark Delaware

Jennifer Marker Johnson – Judge

Gretchen Wilson– Judge

Nancy Bizzano - Alternate

2003 US Junior Championships

Lake Placid NY

Sara Kastner – Judge

2003 US National Championships

Dallas TX

Nancy Bizzano – Chief Referee

Janet Allen – Judge

Kristin Cutler – Judge

Gretchen Wilson – Alternate Judge

2003 National Synchronized

Huntsville AL

Dann Krueger – Judge

Shirley Hage – Alternate

North American Challenge Skate

Dippe New Brunswick

Sara Kastner – Judge

Junior Grand Prix, Phoenix AZ

Tamie Campbell - Judge

Carolyn Marker – Chief Accountant

Skate Canada

Quebec City

Janet Allen – Team Leader

2003 World Championships

Washington DC

Nancy Bizzano - Asst Team Leader

Chip Rauth – Music Coordinator



**OFFICIAL UPDATE
TEAM SELECTIONS**

TEAM C

Ben Miller

Reserve Team

Kristen Sheaffer

Rohene Ward



RESULTS



Ann Arbor MI, April 3-6

Masters Pair

Lynne Maker Kuechle & Peter Biver 1

Mens Championship Gold

Nicholas Kopp 7

Christopher Williams 8

Mens Championship Masters

Peter Biver 8

Mens Gold 1

Nicholas Kopp 2

Mens Gold 2

Christopher Williams 1

Mens Silver 2

Fred Stevens 9

Ladies Gold 1

Lisa Schurch 8

Ladies Silver 1

Stacy Jacobson Rochert 6

Adult Pair

Kimm Walin & Richard Walin 1



**Triglav Trophy
Jesenice, Slovenia**

Junior Men

Ben Miller (1,3,3)

Correction: The 2002 Celebration of Champions information in the March 2002 Rink Link incorrectly listed Michael Chau as the Upper Great Lakes Gold Medalist. He was the Upper Great Lakes Silver Medalist.



GOLD ^UISTS

By Marguerite Pakkala

Courtney Green Eden Prairie FSC

Courtney Green, member of Eden Prairie Figure Skating Club skated her way to Gold this May 2002. Courtney plans to continue skating during her senior year in high school and is looking forward to competing this year.

During the summers, Courtney is often found playing softball in a girls league. She also lives on a lake where she enjoys riding the tube or the wake board. Relaxing and hanging around with friends makes her feel complete.

This fall, Courtney will be a senior at Eden Prairie High School and is looking ahead to college. She would like to attend Stanford and will pursue prelaw or premed studies.

As a Novice, she was the Minnesota State Champion 2000, and that year she also earned a bid at Upper Great Lakes for a trip to Midwesterns in Detroit. Her favorite memories are the friends she has made, both skaters and coaches. She says she admires her sister and always had to skate when her older sister was skating. Her sister, was the first member of EPFSC to pass her senior free skate test. Courtney is coached by Beth Nielsen and Judy Hoel

Tami Trenter Lake Minnetonka FSC

Tami Trenter has passed her Gold Figures Test this past May. I believe she is, or will be possibly, the last person in our area to pass a Gold Figure Test. Tami started skating when she was three and a half years old and started doing figures at the age of five. She represented this area for figures the last time figures were skated at Nationals and

represented this area at Junior Olympics as a juvenile when figures were a required element. Being inspired by figures, after they were discontinued, she thought; there were only two more tests left so why not go for it. She already holds her Gold Test in Freeskate and is working to pass her last gold dance.

This young lady is home schooled and is taking post secondary courses at Normandale Junior College. She also teaches in the Minnetonka Skate School, where she is a member and is coached by Carol Timm.

As a youngster she also took dance lessons, tap, ballet and jazz. However looking back on her life as a skater, she loves the shows.

Not only does Tami figure skate, she plays hockey for Hopkins where she will be captain for next years team. She told me she will switch to hockey when she goes to college and plans to play hockey during her college years.

Tami will continue figure skating and her competitions for now but really looks forward to playing hockey. When she is not skating, she enjoys being with friends, and shopping.

Katie Childs Lake Minnetonka FSC

Member of Minnetonka Figure Skating Club, Katie Childs, passed her Gold Free Skate test on April 23, 2002. She started to skate when she was five years old and joined the club at the age of ten. Her coach was Karen Meck.

Memories of her skating years include, Regional Competitions as well as many other competitions. She has enjoyed making many friends and looks forward to spending time with them outside the rink. You will find Katie and her many friends, shopping the malls, roller blading around Lake Calhoun, Alpine skiing or relaxing at a lake cabin.

She is a 2002 graduate of Wayzata High School and will be attending St. Olaf College in the

fall. Fall plans include teaching skating at Northfield Arena and she hopes to become a member of the school ski team. Although she has not yet decided exactly what major to pursue, she is leaning towards a history major or something to do with sports medicine.

Shannon Gilbertson Braemar City of Lakes FSC

Shannon Gilbertson earned her Gold Test during the Central Testing at St. Louis Park on April 10, 2002. She is a member of Braemar City of Lakes Figure Skating Club and is now pursuing a gold in ice dance. She will travel to Lake Placid this summer to complete her dreams. Each summer, the trip to Lake Placid Training Center is an experience she will always cherish.

Shannon has been coached by Shannon Ort and treasures the time spent with her coach. Shannon has been a competitor and likes the feeling of competition. Her favorite memory of skating, however, is the show, always the show.

This skater attends Orono High School and likes to partake in other sports. She enjoys the friendships at the rink and at school. She plans to participate in school activities this fall. Like most of our skaters, she enjoys having fun with her friends and shopping with them.

Ryann McMahon Eden Prairie FSC

Ryann McMahon, a member of Eden Prairie FSC achieved her goal of Gold Freeskate this past April. Presently she is a member of the freshman class of Academy of Holy Angels, where currently she is in advanced classes at school and likes to write.

At the age of four she first began to skate. She said that skating has taught her to work diligently to obtain her goals. She has been a competitor for all regional competitions and holds bronze Minnesota State

Championship trophies for pre-juvenile, juvenile and novice.

In addition to skating, this young lady has been involved in on and off ice conditioning and ballet. She says she is inspired to work for her goals because of the influence of her mom and her coach, Jana. Ryann will continue to train and continue to skate. Working hard everyday, makes her feel progress.

If she were not a figure skater, she told me she would play softball or tennis. After a short pause, she stated it most likely would be tennis because it is like skating, you are only as good as you yourself work for. Spending time with her two dogs is fun and she spends much time with her friends. Ryan is coached by Mark and Jana Militano.

**Diana Fisher
Eden Prairie FSC**

Diana Fisher is looking forward to being a senior next fall at Eden Prairie High School. She is a member of Eden Prairie Figure Skating Club, coached by Jana and Mark Militano and earned her Gold this spring.

Diana started in tots class at the age of four and joined the club when she was six years old. She skated on a synchro line for two years but soon found that she really wanted to work on her individual skating. During the years of skating, she has entered many competitions and skated in the spring shows. She enjoys being with her skating friends but her best memory of skating is going on road trips to competitions with her mother, enjoying all the fun they had together.

During the school year this young lady enjoys her classes in Spanish. She feels she may like to pursue language and business in college. Diana also is interested in a Synchro team during her college years.

When this skater is not at the rink, she enjoys wake boarding, water skiing, down hill skiing and hanging out with her buddies at the mall. Presently, she

also works part time at an office to earn spending money.

She expresses a warm thank you to her coaches for all their encouragement so she could reach her goal, and obtain her gold test.

**Tracy Pelak
Braemar City of Lakes FSC**

Tracy Pelak, member of Braemar City of Lakes Figure Skating Club passed her Gold Freeskate on March 17, 2002. She will be a junior in the fall at Orono High School. Tracy started skating lessons at four years of age and started taking private lessons from Shannon Ort when she was seven

years old. She does have memories of having to pass a figure test, soon they were replaced by the MIF. She also tried ice dance and has her pre-silvers. As a young skater, she was a member of the Mini Mates line but decided to focus on her ability to pass tests.

She has trained the last few summers in Lake Placid and will miss that adventure. This summer she is trading in her skates for a desk and will take a course in small business at Indiana University. Her favorite memories are all the friendships made with other skaters.

Tracy is planning to take up two sports at school, track and downhill skiing. She teaches skate lessons at Orono Ice Arena in the winter. She will no longer be skating, setting her sights on the future with other sports and school events.

**Bennett Weisse
Braemar City of Lakes FSC**

Bennett Weisse skated her way to Gold on February 7, 2002. She began skating at the age of five and remembers all the fun she has had with her many skating friends. Bennett is an eighth grader at Central Middle School in Eden Prairie and is part of the choir and enjoys studying French.

Each summer, Bennett travels to Sun Valley where she

met four special skating friends, Kathy, Allie, Colette and Brianna. Reflecting on the summer days, she set goals to pass her senior tests. This Gold Medalist says she admires all skaters who stick to their dreams and work to achieve them. A member of Braemar City of Lakes FSC she is coached by Kathleen Gazich, Dede Disbrow and Shannon Ort. She credits her coaches for helping her achieve her goals.

If she was not a skater, you would most likely find this young lady skiing or snow boarding in the winter and swimming summers and spending time with her friends more often. She enjoys singing and acting and will audition for the Spring Musical at school. She also spends down time with her cat, Rascal. Memories will include all her skating friends, spring shows and the show party, and testing. Bennett plans to continue skating.

**Sarah France
Lake Minnetonka FSC**

Sarah France is a 2002 graduate of the Perpich Center for Performing Arts High School. Sarah took her Gold Dance Test in Rochester on February 17, 2002. She has been trained by Ari Lieb. She first started skating seven years ago and fell in love with ice dance. She told me she loves the feeling and flow from the dance. She has competed with a partner at the Indy Challenge, and is take this year off to pursue her skating dreams. She will be trying out for a partner with hopes to find the right partner so they can compete. Sarah's favorite memory in skating is her competitions. She has been dancing only three and a half years.

She is inspired by the current Olympic champions from France, Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat. This Gold Medalist dreams of being able to compete at that level. Sarah is a member of Minnetonka Figure Skating Club.

When she finishes her skating she wants to go to college and pursue a major in art history.

**Megan Gladfelter
Lake Minnetonka FSC**

Megan Gladfelter, member of Lake Minnetonka Figure Skating Club, passed her senior freeskating test to become a member of the Gold Medal Club January 2002. She started skating at the age of 7 years and joined the club a year later. Megan has been coached by Barb Castaneda.

Megan is a junior at Totino Grace High School where she has been a member of the school dance line. If she were not a skater, she would probably be a dancer. She started dancing at the age of three. She plans to go to college after high school graduation and is hopeful that she will be accepted at Stanford. Her favorite subject is science.

When she first started to compete, she was given a little lucky bear. During her years of competition this bear travels along with her and she tells me, her coach holds the lucky bear. Megan has spent a few summers at Ice Castles and has met and skated with Sasha Cohen. She said she respects Sasha for the way she trains, also for her well rounded personality, making Sasha a good role model for her own skating.

Megan went to Junior Olympics in 1998 for figures and won the gold medal for her efforts. As for the near future, Megan will continue to train and perfect her skills and continue competition.

Her special friend at home is her little dog, Lottie. Megan likes spending time with friends and going to the malls.

**Alysa Weisner
Lake Minnetonka FSC**

Alysa Weisner, coached by Carol Timm, is one of this years newest Gold Medalist. She is a member of the Lake Minnetonka FSC where she trains. This skater is always busy. She is a member of the National Honor Society and a member of the class of 2002 at

Eden Prairie High School. She plans to go to college and would like to continue skating and competition. While not yet sure which college she will attend, on her short list, the University of Minnesota Duluth where she would like to major in English and education.

Adversity is not an unknown factor to this skater. She competed after receiving 45 stitches in her knee just before Minnesota State.

Leisure time will find this skater at a ski hill in the winter or water skiing during the summer. She also volunteers once a week at Southdale Fairview Hospital.

Alysa also is a member of a chemical free group at school and is in a peer ministry group at church. Alysa would like to continue her education but not leave her skating far behind and one day like to become a skating coach or choreographer.

**Rohene Ward
Starlight Dance Club**

Rohene Andrea Ward passed his senior free test on April 4, 2001. He is a North High School graduate class of 2001. Rohene is coached by Page Lipe and a member of Starlight Dance Club. Rohene first saw figure skaters while on a field trip for school. At the time he was 8 years old and playing hockey. Shortly thereafter, he started figure skating and has won his way to Nationals as well as international competitions. He is first to hold a Minnesota State Championship title for Senior Men.

Rohene loves to train both on and off the ice. He practices his skills both on and off ice. He likes his close friends he has made at the rink and admires former US Champion, Rudy Galindo. What he most admires about him is his ability and determination to work hard to achieve his own personal goals.

While college is not in the near future, Rohene told me that he may consider going to the U of M at some point to study dance.

For now, he would like to compete and his immediate goal is to make the 2002 Junior World Team. He likes to compete at the international competitions where you meet people from different backgrounds. He was to travel to Italy but it was canceled after the September 11 incident.

Rohene's favorite food is spaghetti and his favorite color purple. He enjoys music, movies and friends.

**Angela Ford
Burnsville Mn-Valley FSC**

Making plans and following dreams, Angela Ford skating to her favorite music, from her favorite movie, became a Gold Medalist the summer of 2000. Coaching her from the start was Loni Kennan and Kathryn Curielli-Underwood. A member of Burnsville Minnesota Valley FSC, she enjoys memories of her club shows and fondly remembers being voted the club's "Skater of the Year". Starting in skate school classes, she quickly took to the ice and joined the club, where she set forth her plans and dreams. She is excited that she actually fulfilled her dreams and now has set her sights on more plans for her future.

Graduating Class of 2001, Angela is now a freshman at the University of Minnesota Bemidji campus. She enjoys campus life and is excited about her college education. Angela has not yet decided on a major, her thoughts are running toward the computer field or graphic design. She enjoys taking part in other sports such as pickup co-ed soccer and likes being a fan in the stands with her friends. Like many skaters, she has found the rink in Bemidji where she enjoys teaching a few students. What she misses most at home are her two cats, Sugar and Shandi, being with her friends shopping at the malls.

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.

Following is the entire Synergy article, which was inadvertently truncated in the March issue



SELECTION IS SET FOR TWIN CITY SYNERGY

EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING for Twin City Synergy, the new senior elite synchronized team that is being proposed by the Twin City Figure Skating Association (TCFSA). Tryouts will be **April 13-15, at Mariucci Ice Arena** on the University of Minnesota campus. Synergy Board Members have been distributing information at various competitions and skating events around the state, and attending meetings of clubs as requested.

WHY FORM AN ELITE TEAM? It has been an on-going challenge for our local clubs to field a competitive senior team with enough of their own skaters. In the words of Bette Snuggerud, a huge promoter of all disciplines of skating says that "Synchronized skating has developed into a very skilled sport which now requires a high level of skating ability. During the past twenty years it has evolved from a marching, kick-line effort to free skating moves by a team with advanced skating skills. It has been our vision since the start of synchro skating in the Twin Cities to showcase the very best skaters on one team that could compete with teams in other parts of the country. I don't believe that a single club in this area has enough high-test synchro skaters needed to field a team at the national or international level, but if

we combine skaters from many different clubs, there is no reason why we can't be competitive."

Shirley Hage, who lives in St. Paul, is an International Synchro judge and has officiated at over 70 competitions. She was a member of the Task Force. Shirley reports that, "committed synchro skaters from all over the world are staying on their teams much longer than they did just a few years ago. The skaters want to pursue their dreams of competing for their country internationally, and the excitement of being part of a team and performing at the highest level is their motivation." Shirley highly endorses this elite team concept and recognizes that "this is the only way in which our synchro skaters can compete with the other elite senior teams in the United States."

DOESN'T THIS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR LOCAL CLUBS? On the contrary, the Board and the Task Force believe it will eventually have a very positive impact on synchronized skating in the Twin Cities. It has been demonstrated in many other pockets of strong synchro skating that there is an increase of synchro skating at the lower levels in the same way that the Basic Skills programs multiplies dramatically in an Olympic year. Success at the top generates interest at the bottom.

More often than not, our high-test synchro skaters leave their own club teams because their skating ability surpasses many of their peers. To quote a local well-respected coach, "Your team is only as good as your weakest skater." While many local teams have a core group of high test skaters, when one leaves he/she must be replaced with a skater who many times is not of the same caliber. By the very nature of skating, most club memberships are rotational, and tend to have members that are high-test skaters for a period of time, and then are replaced with low-test skaters until the cycle is repeated.

An elite team will provide a consistency that is necessary to synchro skating. It will help local clubs retain synchro skaters who would normally leave because there was no place to go.

In the feasibility study, the Task Force also found that there are several skaters in the Twin Cities who pass their Gold Free Skating tests and then quit skating. This would provide another skating challenge for them.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE TEAM? In studying the feasibility of this team, the Task Force found that nearly all skaters left their synchro teams upon high school graduation because there was no place to advance. These are the skaters the Board is interested in recruiting, and with so many colleges in the area, there should be many skaters to draw from.

The TCFSA is the sponsor of this team. The plan is to have the TCFSA help underwrite part of the cost for the first three years, and then to solicit corporate donations. As the team gains experience and progresses, the long-term plan is to convince the University of Minnesota to add it as a NCAA sport. Five years ago there were three collegiate teams in the United States. There are now seventeen colleges that have synchro teams, with more forming each year.

WHY SHOULD THE TCFSA SPONSOR THIS TEAM? "Historically the Twin City Figure Skating Association has supported all forms of skating. Twin City Synergy will provide future opportunities in the Twin Cities for accomplished skaters looking for new challenges," said Marlys Larson, president of the TCFSA.

WHO WILL BE THE COACH? The Synergy was very fortunate to hire Jenise Jensen as the Head Coach. Jenise has over twenty years of syncho coaching experience. At the national level, she has coached teams who have medalled and been selected to represent the United States internationally. To learn more about Jenise, please visit the TCFSA website, www.tcfsa.org, and click on the synchro button.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The recommended minimum skating requirements for this team are skaters who have passed Novice Freestyle, or Novice Moves in the Field, or all three Pre-Silver Dance Tests, or ISI Freestyle 8. Synchro skating experience is not required. Skaters should be at least sixteen (16) by July 1, 2002. There is no maximum age limit.

Tryout forms are available at the TCFSA website www.tcfsa.org. Click on synchro. They can also be obtained by e-mailing TCFSA at tcfsa@usfamily.net OR CALLING 1-800 443 5095. Any club interested in having a Synergy Board Member attend one of their meetings, please send an e-mail to tcfsa@usfamily.net



TCFSA and Twin City Synergy

To Sponsor Clinic with Vicki Korn

TCFSA and the Twin City Synergy Team are co-sponsoring a synchronized skating clinic with Vicki Korn this fall. Vicki Korn is the varsity coach of the University of Miami Senior Synchronized Skating Team. The team was the 2002 Silver medalist at U.S. Nationals and finished ninth at the 2002 World Synchro Championships. The University of Miami team, under Vicki's direction from the beginning, has been a dominating team at the national and world levels for several years.

The clinic is free to synchronized skating teams whose home clubs are members of TCFSA. It will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 28th and 29th, 2002, at Mariucci Arena on the University of Minnesota campus.

Each team registering for the clinic will have a specified time to work with Vicki on elements of their choice such as assistance with choreography, a critique of a completed program, etc.

Space is limited and advance registration is required. Team managers or coaches should contact Nancy Kaufmann at 952-944-6785 or nancy@icesnice.com to request a form. Registration forms must be returned by September 6, 2002. Teams will be notified of their assigned times after that date. Times will be based on registrations as received.

