



Rink Link

June 2004

2005

Minnesota State August 27-29, 2004

By Dann Krueger

The Burnsville-Minnesota Valley Figure Skating Club is hosting the 2005 Minnesota State Figure Skating Championships on Friday, August 27 to Sunday August 29, 2004. The competition will be held at the Burnsville Ice Center, 251 Civic Center Drive in Burnsville.

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 on Sunday September 19 at the Southview Country Club. Additionally, the Minnesota State Champions will be featured along with our Sectional, National and International competitors at the "Celebration of Champions" in February 2005.

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



TWIN CITY SYNERGY REPORT to TCFSA

By Twin City Synergy Board

It is with sadness that we report the demise of Twin City Synergy. Is this an experiment that failed? Yes and no.

Four years ago, after TCFSA's success in hosting the first ever 2000 World Synchronized Skating Championships, a task force was formed to study the feasibility of forming a senior team in Minnesota consisting of skaters from all over the metro area.

The task force was made up of delegates from the TCFSA member clubs. Surveys were sent to member clubs, skaters, and to other successful senior synchronized teams. Based on the responses, the task force voted unanimously to recommend that TCFSA proceed with formation of the team. TCFSA's goals were to (1) field a team from Minnesota that could be competitive at the increasingly difficult senior level; (2) keep the high test skater involved after high school; (3) obtain recognition for Minnesota at the national level of synchronized skating; (4) promote and improve the interest and quality of synchronized skating in Minnesota and (5) ultimately, bring a synchronized skating team to the University of Minnesota.

Despite very difficult odds, Twin City Synergy did meet most of those goals. In its first year it legitimately qualified for nationals where it finished 10th. In its second year the team finished third at the Midwest Regional Championships and ninth at nationals. The ninth place finish is not indicative of the incredible progress of the team in the past year. The difference between the ninth and tenth place finishers was far greater than the difference between sixth and ninth. Based on comments from judges and USFSA officials, Synergy had made an extremely positive impression and all Minnesota teams benefited by having a competitive team in the senior division. TCFSA and Synergy sponsored several exhibitions and clinics for other synchronized skating teams in the area that were very well received. Without a doubt the quality of synchronized skating has improved in Minnesota. In addition, skating on the University campus gave the team a visibility to the general public that was not otherwise available.

So why no team in the future? Quite frankly, a lack of qualified skaters. One reason for that is the financial commitment. It is expensive to field any synchronized team but, even more so in the senior division where the level of training required increases dramatically. A second reason is the time commitment. Most of the skaters on the team are seniors in high school or are in college. Again the level of training is intense. Despite the financial and time commitments, the Synergy skaters on the team for the last two years all agreed it was well worth it for the skating experience of a lifetime—competing at U.S. Nationals in the Senior Division.

The third reason and, from the perspective of the Synergy Board the most damaging, was the lack of promotion of the team by the TCFSA member clubs. A TCFSA sponsored team needs a feeder system. Despite a unanimous vote by the task force and no objections at any TCFSA meetings during the planning stages, it became very clear that some local teams and skating professionals were not behind TCFSA's effort. In its first year the Synergy board was forced to spend time responding to grievances filed with the USFSA (determined to be totally unfounded) and verbal attacks on board members at USFSA functions (due to misinformation.) Skaters who joined Synergy were ostracized by their clubs even though they had no plans to skate or were not eligible to skate on a synchro team at their home club. This was most unfortunate and was the number one factor leading to the demise of the team.

What can we learn from this? TCFSA is an association consisting of 17 member clubs. Every member of those 17 clubs is a member of TCFSA. Synergy was not formed overnight without thought or discussion. The task force meetings were discussed and reported at TCFSA monthly meetings. As a club member, be sure your delegate attends these meetings and reports at your board meetings. If you have a concern or objection, share it with your delegate and be sure your thoughts are voiced before the decision is made. One of the most vocal clubs against Synergy had four delegates on the 12 member task force. As mentioned above, the recommendation to proceed was unanimous. Once your association makes a decision, it behooves all to cooperate whether or not they agree with it.

The only goal that Synergy did not meet was to bring a team to the University of Minnesota. But all hope is not lost. There are a core group of skaters from Synergy who attend the University. There are also skaters from other areas who are attending the University and expressed an interest in the team but were unable to do so because of time and financial commitments. A group of these skaters are attempting to form a synchronized skating club at the University and compete in the Collegiate Introductory level. As a University club sport and competing at that level, the cost per skater would be greatly reduced. While TCFSA cannot offer any financial support, members of the Synergy Board have agreed to offer whatever advice and resources they can to assist the skaters in forming the team. If anyone is interested in skating with the team please send an e-mail to tcfsa@usfamily.net and your information will be forwarded to the skaters.

In closing, the Board would like to thank the Synergy skaters and coaches. Special congratulations go to Mariah Jeske from the Maplewood FSC who will be skating on the Team Elan Senior Team next year and to Rachel Funk from the Roseville FSC who will skate on the University of Miami Varsity team. Holly Frei from Maplewood FSC has been invited to audition for the University of Michigan Varsity team in August and we wish her the best. The Synergy skaters and coaches surpassed all of our expectations for the success of the team in its first two years. As a Board we enjoyed working with them and watching the team grow tremendously in such a short time. We thank them for their dedication and the awesome experience of watching them get to Nationals.



GOLD  IST

**Kaylyn McDaniel
St. Paul FSC**

Kaylyn McDaniel, a 16 year old Sophomore at Stillwater High School, passed the US Figure Skating Gold Freeskating test on May 4, 2004. She is coached by Sandra Wittmann and Jennifer Karl Motz.

Kaylyn began skating at the age of 10 with Sandra Wittmann at the White Bear Lake Sports Center. She is currently working on her Canadian Gold and ISI Freestyle 9 tests. Kaylyn would like to compete on the Senior level just for fun. For the last four years she has volunteered at the St. Croix Valley Rec Center teaching group lessons and now has two private students. She is enjoying and teach them

the fun tricks of skating and watching them progress through the levels

This year Kaylyn lettered in academics and band for receiving a State Superior rating on her oboe solo. In her free time, Kaylyn likes to downhill ski, snowmobile and water ski.

Kaylyn thanks her parents for taking her to all the early morning practices and Sandy & Jenny for always being there for her.



GOLD  IST

**Kylie Bloodsworth
Braemar City of Lakes FSC**

Kylie Bloodsworth, a 17 year old Junior at Edina High School, passed the US Figure Skating Gold Freeskating test on March 10th, 2004. Kylie's love of skating began in kindergarten with her first coach, Pam May. Joan Orvis, Dede Disbrow and Todd Price were instrumental in supporting, encouraging and coaching her to Gold levels.

Kylie has participated in and earned medals in three Upper Great Lakes Figure Skating Regional Championships. She has done solo performances in the Braemar Annual Ice Show for five years. In 2000, Kylie received the Eric Reiter Award presented by Braemar Figure Skating Club to the highest placing intermediate skater at the McCandless Competition. In April of 2004, Braemar recognized her with the Hugh J. MacMillan Award for Dedication and Achievement.

Kylie has earned Edina High School Athletic Letters for her freshman, sophomore and junior years. She has also been consistently on the A honor roll throughout her middle and high school years.

At Edina High School, Kylie is in the Symphonic Orchestra. During her orchestra's performance tours, she has played violin in Chicago and on a European tour to Austria, Germany, and the Czech Republic. During the European tour, the orchestra performed at the United Nations in Vienna.

Kylie is also active in youth activities at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. Kylie sings with the Cathedral Choir and

participates in High League activities. She has been a counselor at the church's Cathedral of the Pines Summer Camp for two years.

Kylie will continue to skate. She is working on ice dancing with Ari Lieb and wants to achieve gold level. She is training in pairs skating with Todd Price and will be working this summer with the learn-to-skate program at Braemar. Kylie plans on attending a four-year college where she would like to have an opportunity to coach at a rink in her college community.



GOLD  IST

**Ryan Yearous
Braemar City of Lakes FSC**

Ryan Yearous, a Freshman at the University of Montana, passed the US Figure Skating Gold Freeskating test on March 14, 2003. He was coached by Joan Orvis. Ryan is now coaching the the Missoula FSC in Montana and hopes to continue to do so through college. He is also working on his dance tests and hopes to take the Pre Silvers this summer and eventually become a Gold Medalist in Dance. Ryan would love to compete again someday, but there isn't many skaters or much ice time in Missoula!

Ryan is also a Nordic skier and a snowboarder. He enjoys biking, hiking and camping. His field of study will be either Social Work or Political Science. Ryan is involved with the Student Social Work Association, the Boys & Girls Club of Missoula and the Missoula Elementary Schools Flagship mentoring/tutoring programs.

Ryan started skating when he was 6 and feels that getting to know so many wonderful people has made skating the best experience in his life. Every aspect – practicing, competing, exercising – has taught him a lot about himself. Figure skating means a lot to him and it's something that Ryan doesn't ever want to give up. His favorite things were the Braemar ice shows, skating and competing in the summer with all his friends and just always being around wonderful people. He will always treasure his figure skating experience.



The Champion for Skating Award Nomination Form

The Champion For Skating Award, created in 1993 to recognize sustained, selfless service to the sport of eligible figure skating in Minnesota, 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. Anybody meeting the 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! Submit a nomination form today.

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: Carolyn Marker, 1049 Portland Avenue, St. Paul MN 55101-7011

Lexie Kastner
P O Box 296
Deerwood MN 56444

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MPLS MN
PERMIT #3532



**OFFICIAL UPDATE
USFSA APPOINTMENTS**

Bronze Singles & Pairs

Lynda Lubratt
Marion Curry

Junior Synchronized Competition

Terryl Crabtree

**National Singles & Pairs
Competition Judge**

Jennifer Marker Johnson

National Synchronized Skating Referee

Dann Krueger

At Governing Council

Tamie Campbell – Midwestern At-Large Board
Member

Bette Snuggerud – Competitions Chair
Dann Krueger – Synchronized Team Skating
Chair

Reserve Team

Ben Miller

*Correction to March Rink Link
Katie Luchau
Upper Great Lakes
Pre-Juvenile Girls Gold Medalist
Participated in the
Celebration of Champions but
her name was inadvertently omitted
from the list*



***Supporting Minnesota Skaters
since 1991***

Minnesota Skating Scholarship
*Herb Morgenthaler
3851 Beard Ave. S.
Minneapolis MN 55410-1040*

***The Minnesota Skating
Scholarship gratefully acknowledges
Contributions from the following
in honor of Matthew Zats:***

*Shirley Asklund
Don & Betty Meek
Jeff, Lori & Angela Rothmund
Art & Shirley Hage
Margaret Nordstog
Rosemary Wilzbacher Hanson
Roseville Figure Skating Club
Lou & Shirley Sherman
Greg & Kathy Fontaine
Phyllis Basford
Freda Hill
Maplewood Figure Skating Club
Twin City Figure Skating Association
Anne & Dick Klein
Dede Disbrow
Lexie Kastner
Ann Eidson*

