

Twin City Figure Skating Association

RINK LINK

November 1999

The Champion For Skating Award

On October 10, 1999, the Twin City Figure Skating Association held its annual Officials' Dinner. This traditionally wonderful evening is set aside to honor the new Minnesota State Figure Skating Champions, the officials who give so much to the skating community, and to honor the Twin City Figure Skating Association's Volunteer of the year, The Champion for Skating Award.

Each year the presenter of the award is the past year's award recipient. The following is the presentation speech given by last year's Champion for Skating, Merry Fragomeni.

"This year's winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award is a gal you can count on behind the scenes at various skating events throughout the years."

"Many of you know her as the Chair of Volunteers as well as serving on the executive board for the World FS Championships held in 1998."

"What you don't know is that her enthusiasm for figure skating began at age 6 at an outdoor rink in Hendricks, MN where she declared she wanted to be like Carol Heiss, whose picture hung on the wall."

"Many of you know she has 3 children, all of which are skaters. Casey - oldest daughter who began skating at age 6 and enjoyed precision while her mother volunteered for that group at Lake Minnetonka; Mitch - her son who has taken Learn to Skate lessons in preparation for playing hockey; and Christina who is a successful, competitive, singles skater under the coaching of Kathleen Schmeltz."

"What you don't know is that Sylvia took skating lessons with the Adult Learn to Skate Program at Lake Minnetonka, but after breaking her ankle, decides this sport is for the young."

"Many of you know her as a delegate to the TCFSA since 1991, and Secretary for 5 years."

"

"What you don't know is that in her free time, she enjoys reading and is currently writing a book about skating titled "The Importance of Volunteering in Figure Skating."

"Many of you know she has been involved in all 6 Ice Symphonies and has CO-chaired this show the last 2 years."

"What you don't know is that before she volunteered so much, she loved hiking, backpacking, and a good game of tennis."

"Many of you know she has been on the Board of Directors at Braemar FSC, in charge of registration since 1995 at the McCandless FS Competition, in charge of registration; at Midwesterns in 1996 and Midwestern Precision in 1997."

"What you don't know is that she loved to skydive - until breaking her ankle in that sport."

"What you might know is that she was on the committee who drew up the criteria for this Volunteer of the Year Award and helped develop The Champion for Skating Award nomination form."

"What you might not know is that this volunteer is an instrument rated pilot and has loved her days of flying."

"Today this volunteer can still be found behind the scenes, ready to assist whenever needed. What you might know is that she takes photos at various events and has made a photo collage as one of her duties to the 25th Anniversary Party of the TCFSA."

"What you might not know, is that she is a sensitive, caring friend with many talents and a big heart. And thankfully, her talents and heart has been poured into the great sport of Figure Skating."

"If you haven't guessed, my good friend, Sylvia Olson, wins the Champion Volunteer of the Year Award!"

(Special Thanks to Merry Fragomeni for providing her presentation speech to be shared in the Rink Link.)

Please turn to next page for Sylvia's acceptance speech....

Sylvia Olson... TCFSA's Champion for Skating

"Hi, my name is Sylvia, and I'm a recovering volunteer."

"This is sooooo cool! When Merry called to tell me the news, she witnessed something no one else in this room has ever experienced—I was speechless. But unfortunately for you guys, I'm no longer speechless and so I'm going to talk."

"Most of you know what a strident advocate I am for volunteering and volunteers. After watching all the test chairs and officials this evening – and hearing all their contributions and for so many years, too, I really wonder what I'm doing up here accepting this award....not that I'm ever going to give it back! But I just want you to know how truly awed I am by the contributions of people in this room and in TCFSA: your talent, your sacrifices, your willingness to give and give beyond all reasonableness. Since this is World Series time, I'd like to use a baseball analogy and say that, as I look over this group, I see a lot of awesome infielders. You do one thing exceptionally well, and a lot of things very, very, very well. So on behalf of all the utility infielder volunteers, I accept this award."

"If you'd indulge me for just a few more minutes, I would like to thank my family for their support: for giving up closets and garage space and staying up all night helping me with projects. I might add, 'Greater love hath no son for his mother than that he would go to Peoria with her.'"

"I'd also like to thank Lake Minnetonka Figure Skating Club for taking a shot on me ten years ago. And to Braemar Figure Skating Club for giving me even more rope to hang myself. Also, to the Worlds Executive Committee—talk about a leap of faith—trusting me to do that job! And, of course, to the 900 plus volunteers who made Worlds possible."

"Most importantly, I'd like to thank all the individuals who have given me their time and talents—your phone calls, taking time during competitions to talk, sharing your talents, teaching me and giving me of yourselves."

"And finally, I'd like to thank the skaters. Believe it or not, there really

are skaters who write thank you notes, give hugs and yell 'hello' across the parking lots. That really means a lot! And, after all, the skaters are what this is all about."

"During the recent Judges School, a group of us volunteers were just sitting around talking and Ginny Liebig asked the question, "When you think about Worlds now, are you able to smile?" At the time, I didn't think I could answer yes. But now, I'm grinning from ear to ear!"

"Thank you all for this great honor!"

...And Sylvia, from all of us, thank you again for sharing your talents and time so generously! You really are our Champion for Skating!!

Target Stars on Ice, John Hancock Champions on Ice

Ticket orders for the Target Stars on Ice and the Tom Collins Tour of Champions may be placed. The Target Stars on Ice show is Thursday, January 27, 2000, at Target Center, Minneapolis (7:30). Ticket prices are \$45. There are only 50 seats reserved for TCFSA, so order now to be sure you get your seating! (Deadline is Jan. 10.)

The John Hancock Champions on Ice will be held on May 5, 2000, also at Target Center. Ticket prices are \$56. (Deadline is April 15.)

To order, send your check (payable to TCFSA) and a self addressed stamped envelope to :

TCFSA
PO Box 1931
Burnsville, MN 55337

Midwestern Bound...

Congratulations to the following Minnesota skaters who advance to the Midwestern Championships by qualifying at The Upper Great Lakes Championships:

Senior Men:

Danny Clausen, St. Paul FSC (sp 1, fs1, Final 1)

Senior Ladies:

Angie Lien, Duluth FSC (sp2, fs1, final 1)

Katie Lee, St. Paul FSC (sp1, fs2, final 2)

Heidi Pakkala, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC (sp3, fs4, final 3)

Junior Men:

Benjamin Miller, St. Paul FSC (bye)
Rohene Ward, Starlight Dance Club, Champion(sp2 fs1 final 1)
Matthew Wesenberg, St. Paul FSC(sp5, fs2 final 3)

Junior Ladies

Steffie Smith, Eden Prairie FSC (sp2, fs3, final3)
Tanya Traut Alexandria FSC(sp3, fs2 final2)

Novice Ladies

Courtney Green, Eden Prairie FSC(sp3 fs2 final 2)

TCFSA/UGL Results...

Senior Men

Danny Clausen, St. Paul FSC, Champion (sp1, fs1, final 1)

Senior Ladies

KatieLee, St. Paul FSC, (sp1 fs2 final 2, group 1B, 1)

Heidi Pakkala, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC (sp3 fs4, final 3, group 1A 4th)

Tami Trenter, Lake Minnetonka FSC(sp9,fs7, final 7, group 1B 2nd)

Kimberly Cole, St. Paul FSC, (sp10, fs9, final 9, group 1B 3)

Anne Michaletz, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC (sp12 fs12 final 12 group 1B6th)

Katie Nuszloch, Rochester FSC (group 1B 7th)

Kisha Richburg, St. Paul FSC (Group 1B 9th)

Junior Men

Rohene Ward, Starlight Ice Dance Club Champion (sp2, fs1, final 1)

Matthew Wesenberg, St. Paul FSC (sp5, fs2, final 3)

Junior Ladies

Steffie Smith, Eden Prairie FSC (sp2 fs3 final 3 Group 1A 2nd)

Jacqueline Crugnola, Eden Prairie FSC (sp8 fs6, final 6 Group 1B 4th)

Alysa Weisner, Eden Prairie FSC (sp10, fs12, final 12, Group 1A 4th)

Madeline Masten, St. Paul FSC (Group 1 A 7th)

Emily Carlson, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC (Group 1B 8th)

Kayla Kelly, Lake Minnetonka FSC (Group 1B 10th)

Novice Ladies

Courtney Green, Eden Prairie FSC (sp3, fs 2 final 2 group 1C 2nd)

Kristen Sheaffer, Starlight Dance Club (sp6, fs9, final 8, group 1B 4th)

Alyssa Kane, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC (sp9, fs8 final 9 Group 1A 3rd)

Alesia Riker-Jajowka, Rochester FSC (sp14, fs12, final 12 Group 1A 2nd)

Kristina Olson, Braemar-City of Lakes FSC (Group 1A 7th)

Results continued on back page.....

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!

Sarah Dungan St. Paul FSC

Sarah Dungan is a Hamline University junior. She is pursuing a major in Psychology and a minor in Biology. She is also working toward a certificate in Forensic Sciences.

Sarah passed her Gold Freeskating test at the St. Paul Figure Skating Club, under coaches Ted Engelking and Heather Miner. Since completing her tests, Sarah has returned to the competitive side of skating. While enjoying skating and competing, Sarah is concentrating on bettering her skating as a whole.

Outside of skating, Sarah enjoys traveling and hopes to study abroad. Aside from school, skating and a part time job, she also enjoys reading, outdoor activities, nature and spending time with friends and family.

Congratulations, Sarah!!

Sara Thompson St. Paul FSC

Sara Thompson is a 16-year-old junior who attends Osseo High School.

Sara has finished her amateur skating career, however, she plans to continue skating for fun. She enjoys coaching both privately and group lessons and plans to do more coaching now that she has the time.

Sara passed her Gold Freestyle test at St. Paul Figure Skating Club on August 19, 1999. Kellie Dean was her coach throughout her testing career as a skater.

While Sara continues her high school education, she also attends college part time at North Hennepin Community College. She enjoys her time with her friends and family.

Sara would like to take this opportunity "to thank Kellie for all her help and hard work." She also expressed "thanks to my family and friends for always believing in me."

Congratulations, Sara!!

Chelsea Green Eden Prairie FSC

Chelsea Green, Eden Prairie FSC, passed her Gold Freeskating Test in October.

Chelsea is a 17 year old senior at Eden Prairie High School, where she participates in Concert Choir, Senior Class Council, and Varsity Cross-Country Skiing. She is also a 2-year member of the National Honor Society.

Chelsea started skating at the age of 7. Currently she is under the coaching guidance of Beth Nilsson and Judy Hoel. She has the distinguished honor of being the first skater to pass a Gold Freeskating test at Eden Prairie FSC. Chelsea will continue to skate for her enjoyment.

Congratulations, Chelsea!

Benjamin Miller Discovers Gold in Canada / Silver in Slovenia

Benjamin Miller, St. Paul FSC, recently returned from his first Junior Grand Prix event in Bled, Slovenia. Ben was selected to represent the United States in this highly competitive event, and proved, once again, that he was ready to meet the challenges of international competition. Ben is the silver medallist of that event!

Ben also competed this summer in the North America Challenge, another international level event, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He placed first in this event in both short and long programs.

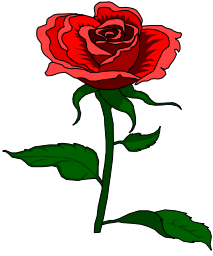
A first year, junior level skater, Ben is a very focused skater who trains under the careful guidance of Ted Engelking and Ann Eidson at the St. Paul FSC. They have seen Ben through his entire skating career and are thrilled with his accomplishments.

Off ice, Ben is a junior at St. Paul Central High School. He has interests in photography and spending time with his friends.

Ben's participation in the Junior Grand Prix event earned him a bye to Midwesterns. Currently, he is training for that event, with goals set on the National Championships in February.

Congratulations, Ben, and good luck in your future skating ventures!

Officially Y ours...



Congratulations to the following officials on their recent appointments!

- Tom Hagen
Silver Test Judge
- Gretchen Wilson
National Comp. Judge
- Nancy Kauffman
Bronze Test Judge

Condolences to the family of Gordon Knutson on the recent passing of Gordy.

Janet Allen receives Distinguished Judge Award

Congratulations to Janet Allen who was awarded the PSA's Distinguished Judge Award!

Janet has been a long time USFSA and ISU judge. She has judged both national and international events, including the 1988 Olympics in Calgary.

Before turning to judging, Janet was a successful amateur skater. She competed in singles, pairs and fours. In 1952, Janet traveled to Oslo, Norway to compete in the 1952 Olympics where she and her partner placed 6th. That same year they placed 5th at the World Championships. She was also a performer with the St. Paul Pops shows. Because of her many talents and participation in multiple events, referees had to be exceptionally careful when planning competitions at which Janet would compete.

Janet spent some time coaching skaters before becoming a judge.

She taught in Iowa and also at the Minneapolis Ice Center (now the Breck Arena and home of the FSC of Minneapolis).

Congratulations, Janet on receiving the PSA Distinguished Judge Award!

A special thank you to Matthew Zats for providing information for this article.

Minnesota Skating Scholarship

"We will continue to support the Minnesota Skating Scholarship as it is of benefit to all our kids in search for a dream." That quote is from the mother of a skater whose daughter received a Harris Collins Award from the MSS this past year. This is one of many heartfelt notes we've received over the past eight years. Thanks to your generosity—through silent auctions, raffles, television-viewing benefits and the Tom Collins Tour of Champions receptions—we've distributed over \$54,000 to deserving Minnesota skaters!

The Minnesota Skating Scholarship, a 501(c) 3 organization, is not having a major benefit event this year. However, we still need your continued support. Any donation will be greatly appreciated, but perhaps you would like to honor someone by making a donation in their name to celebrate a special event such as a birthday, Christmas or a personal accomplishment. You and your honoree will receive a personal note from us (it's a really cute card!) and will be acknowledged in the Twin City Figure Skating Association newsletter.

We think our Mission Statement says it all: The Minnesota Skating Scholarship, approved by the United States Figure Skating Association, is the first of its kind dedicated to providing financial assistance to promising young skaters from within our community. All contributions remain in Minnesota and are allocated annually through an advisory board.

We hope you will decide to continue to help our deserving skater "in search for a dream."

--The Minnesota Skating Scholarship Board of Directors
For more information or to send a contribution:

Minnesota Skating Scholarship
6135 Creek Line Dr.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

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Donations have been made to MSS:
In Memory Of:

Father of Steve
Hartley:TCFSA
Robert Allen: TCFSA
Gordon Knutson: TCFSA

In Honor Of:
Test Session Judges:
Mankato FSC

Karyn Gruenberg: Dale and Bette Snuggerud
Tom Collins: Dale and Bette Snuggerud
Test Session Judges: FSC of Bloomington
Devon Hensel: Jim and DeDe Disbrow
Lailah Shahidi: Jim and Dede Disbrow
Sarah Bakken: Jim and Dede Disbrow
Courtney Sayther: Jim and Dede Disbrow

(Applications for Minnesota Skating Scholarship, Harris Collins Award are available from your club president or test chair)

Minnesota Ice Symphony

Thanks to everyone who participated in and made The 1999 Minnesota Ice Symphony a memorable event! Great Skaters! Great Directors! Great Guests! Great Music! Great Volunteers!

For 1999 MIS sponsor recognition and photos, check out websites:
tcfsa.org
and
punsalanandswallow.com

2000 Minnesota State Champions

Congratulations to the 2000 Minnesota State Champions. The competition was hosted by the Lake Minnetonka FSC. Champions were honored for their achievements at the annual TCFSA Officials' Dinner hosted by the FSC of Minneapolis. Chairs for the wonderful evening were Marion Curry and Linda Lubratt.

Senior Ladies Champion

Katie Lee – St. Paul FSC

Junior Ladies Champion

Tanya Traut—Alexandria FSC

Junior Men Champion

Rohene Ward—FSC of Minneapolis

Novice Ladies Champion

Courtney Green – Eden Prairie FSC

Intermediate Ladies Champion

Jillian Asby – Eden Prairie FSC

Intermediate Men Champion

Aaron Garside – St. Paul FSC

Juvenile Ladies Champion

Stephanie Zastrow – St. Paul FSC

Open Juvenile

Brittany Proctor – Roseville FSC

Pre Juvenile Ladies Champion

Lauren Elyse Anderson – Braemar-City of Lakes
FSC

Open Pre Juvenile Champion

Serena Horsager – Burnsville-MN Valley FSC

Preliminary Ladies Champion

Rebecca Hughes – Braemar-City of Lakes FSC

Preliminary Men Champion

A. J. Moghaddam – FSC of Bloomington

Adult Gold Champion

Patti Miller – Braemar-City of Lakes FSC

Adult Silver Champion

Deana Riley – FSC of Minneapolis

Adult Bronze Champion

Deana Riley – FSC of Minneapolis

Congratulations to the 2000 Minnesota State Champions and to all of the Minnesota State competitors!

2000 Minnesota State Special Awards

Minnesota State has traditionally given two additional awards at the end of the competition. Beginning with the 1999 competition, two new awards were added to the State Championships tradition. Each award is in honor of a person who has given of him or herself to the sport of figure skating.

The Bette Snuggerud Award and the James Disbrow Award are the newest awards added to the Minnesota State Championships. These awards honor the highest Senior Lady, combining her results at Minnesota State and her academic record. The James Disbrow Award honors the highest level male skater in combination with his academic record and his placement at Minnesota State. This year's Bette Snuggerud Award recipient is Katie Lee, St. Paul FSC. The James Disbrow Award recipient is Matthew Wesenberg, St. Paul FSC. Congratulations to both skaters on their performance at Minnesota State as well as their continued academic success.

The Henry Hout Award is awarded to the Junior Ladies Champion. This year's Henry Hout Award recipient is Tanya Traut, Alexandria FSC.

The Wakefield Club Trophy is presented to the club with the most total points. This year's Wakefield Club Award was presented to the Eden Prairie FSC. Congratulations to all!!

A Celebration of Championship Skating

Minnesota's state champions, sectional and national qualifiers, as well as international competitors, will demonstrate their excellence during an afternoon exhibition of skating on Sunday, January 2, 2000, from 3:45 – 6:00pm. The celebration is at Parade Ice Garden and will include a no-cost reception open to everyone. The public is enthusiastically invited to attend and special invitations are being sent to all Minnesota figure skating officials.

“With hard work and unwavering focus, these skaters excelled amid extremely tough competition,” noted Pat St. Peter, President of TCFSA. “Since the Minnesota Ice Symphony is taking a hiatus during the year 2000, this Celebration Exhibition is a way to spotlight and congratulate the skaters for their accomplishments and dedication.”

Cathy Gallagher-Green is Coordinator of the event and the Eden Prairie FSC will coordinate the reception. Please call Cathy at 612-934-4014 if you would like to offer your assistance.